WORLD EXCLUSIVE!

ANDY BIERSACK GOES SOLO!

THE FIRST INTERVIEW!

KERRANG!

WE ARE HARLOT

ARCHITECTS

RISE TO REMAIN

BURY TOMORROW

NECK DEEP

& 27 OTHER BANDS!

WHY BRITAIN ROCKS! RIGHT NOW!

ASKING ALEXANDRIA'S DANNY WORSNOP PRESENTS THE NEW ROCK REVOLUTION ON YOUR DOORSTEP...

6 AMAZING POSTERS!

BRING ME THE HORIZON

THEY'RE MAKING A NEW ALBUM. IT SOUNDS NUTS!

GERARD WAY

AN ALL-NEW ROMANCE!

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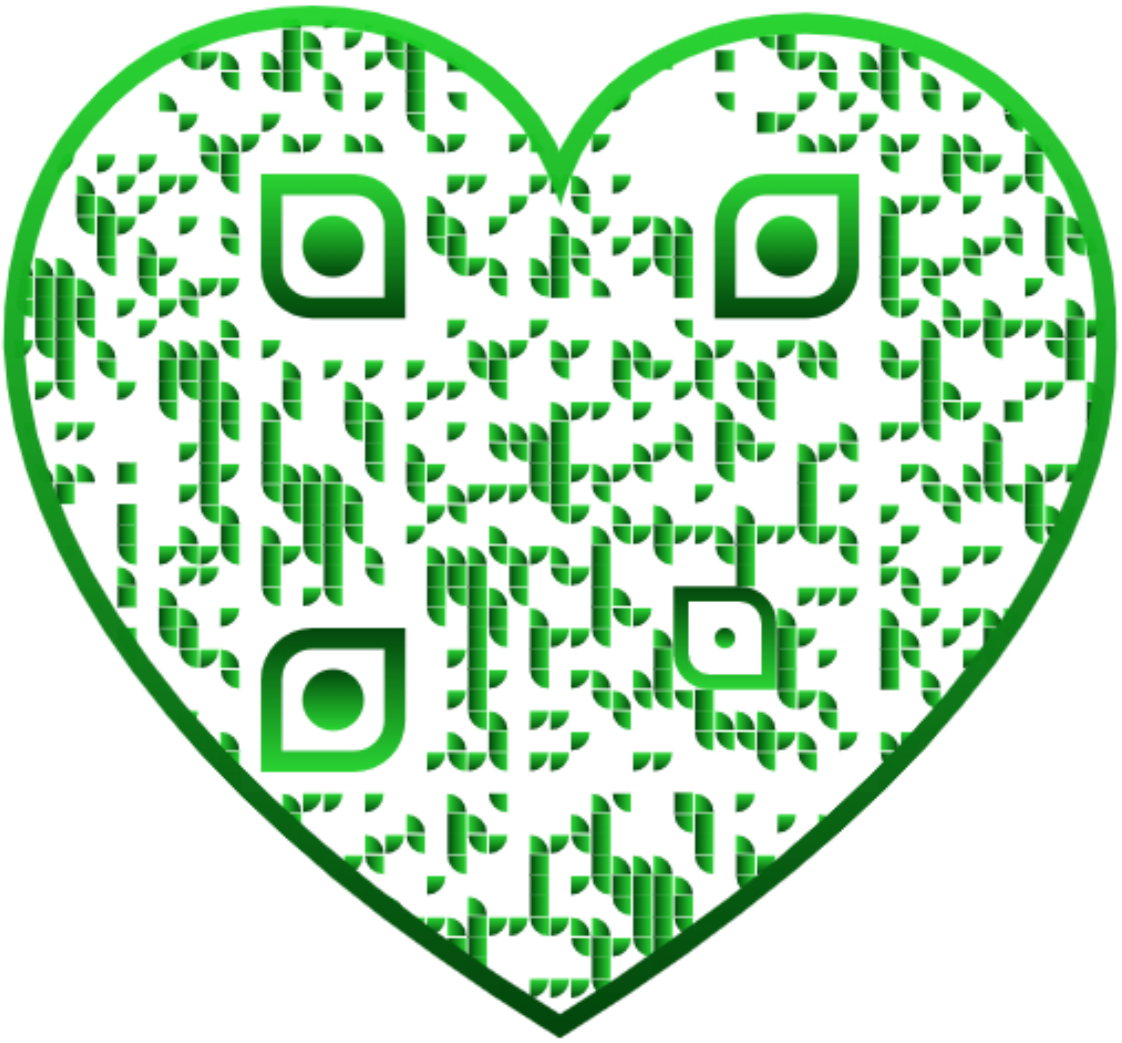

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CONTENTS

IT'S ONLY 30 DAYS 'TIL DOWNLOAD

WE PRESENT TO YOU: YOU ME AT YOUNG GUNS AT SIX

NEWS

04 ANDY BIERSACK WORLD EXCLUSIVE!
08 BRING ME THE HORIZON
09 GERARD WAY
10 RELENTLESS KERRANG! AWARDS 2014 NOMINATIONS PARTY MAYHEM!
12 INTRODUCING: THE HOWLING

FEEDBACK

14 COME AND GET YER LETTERS!

FEATURES

18 DANNY WORSNOP
The infamous Asking Alexandria frontman is soon to be the infamous We Are Harlot frontman, too.

22 ARCHITECTS, BURY TOMORROW AND RISE TO REMAIN
They're masters of controlling a mosh pit, but can three of British rock's fastest-rising stars keep a British bulldog under control for even a few minutes?

38 FEED THE RHINO
One of rock's most explosive live bands swap sweaty vests for countryside tweed. And don't they look dapper.

40 SKINDRED
Frontman Benji Webbe talks us through a life on British rock's front line… with lots of photos!

42 THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN!
Four stars fly the flag for their fair country to determine once and for all where the best scene in Britain lives!

Sit or be sat on (Killer Be Killed)

Adam Lazzara finds a lost ear on the floor

SHOTS

29 RELENTLESS KERRANG! AWARDS 2014 NOMINEES POSTER SPESH

LIVES

48 GROEZROCK SPECIAL!
Falling In Reverse, Bury Tomorrow and loads more go bonkers in Belgium!

ALBUMS

52 KILLER BE KILLED
MastoFlyEscapePlan – they're very, very good!

53 ROB ZOMBIE
He's made a film… OF HIMSELF!

54 SABATON
War, what is it good for? Heavy metal song inspirations.

55 LOSTALONE
Steven Battelle shops in the Disney Store and eats Christmas dinner all year round. No, really…

GIG GUIDE

56 NINE INCH NAILS / DECADE

THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

63 ENTER SHIKARI
Rou Reynolds thinks flip-flops are well dangerous. He's not exactly Lemmy, is he? Answer: no.

HELLO, READERS. Welcome to this week's issue, where we celebrate something very special happening in the rock venues of Britain…

We've always cared, deeply, about the British scene. We're a British magazine. We were born from the heat of the NWOBHM in the early '80s. We've always featured the best British bands around.

Yet, all of a sudden, a clutch of brand-new British rock bands have appeared, from all walks of the genre. It feels like a revolution. Whether it's the pulverising art-metal of Architects, or the hardcore pop-punk of Neck Deep, or bands like Bury Tomorrow and Rise To Remain, they're taking inspiration from the last wave of British rock to break – Bring Me The Horizon, You Me At Six, Asking Alexandria – and taking our sound *on*. I can't remember a more exciting time to be a British rock fan!

James
Editor

THIS ISSUE WAS CREATED WITH HELP FROM...

Here are some things that happened at the Relentless Kerrang! Awards 2014 Noms Party (more on p10). A bizarre chat with Herman Li about MMA at 1am. K! scribe Tomas Doyle and Baby Godzilla's Jonny having a kiss. Getting fitness tips from Ben Young Guns. Davyd from Bury Tomorrow showing us his Harry Potter tattoo. Mikey Mallory Knox telling us he hadn't played much Pokémon lately because of writing exciting new music. Baby Godzilla sticking fingers up people's noses. Our Ed, James, DJing Michael Jackson. Black Or White, obvs.

COVER PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY, PAUL HARRIES

NEWS

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA ...OR ARMANI?

Andy Black: forgot to go to Tie Rack

BACK IN BLACK

YOU KNOW HIM AS THE FRONTMAN OF THE MIGHTY BLACK VEIL BRIDES, BUT NOW, IN OUR WORLD EXCLUSIVE, ANDY BIERSACK UNVEILS HIS DARK ALTER EGO AND SOLO PROJECT: ANDY BLACK

Andy Biersack has exclusively revealed to Kerrang! that he's working on new music outside of Black Veil Brides. The solo project, in which he'll be called Andy Black, has a radically different sound and is music he felt he could not make within his main band.

Andy says the project has been inspired by his love of '80s synth and goth music, and is something he's been working on both alone and with former Black Veil Brides producer John Feldmann.

However, he has reassured fans that his Andy Black project will not have any effect on Black Veil Brides, saying that it's solely a side-project that he's doing as a hobby. Black Veil Brides are currently in the studio making their fourth album with producer Bob Rock, and Andy says, "Obviously Black Veil Brides is my number one priority in life and, as we get deeper into recording our new record, I'll have to put this Andy Black stuff on hold because my heart lies with that band."

The singer is set to release the first Andy Black recording on May 26. Titled They Don't Need To Understand, it's a dark, synth-led piece of music inspired by bands such as The Sisters Of Mercy and Depeche Mode. The song will be put up online, alongside a video shot by Black Veil Brides collaborator Patrick Fogarty, and released for free.

> **"THIS IS A TOTAL PASSION PROJECT"**
> **Andy Biersack**

Currently, Andy has no firm plans to release a complete album – though says he has enough songs to – and has not signed to a label. Instead, he's funded the music and the videos himself, and says he's looking forward to putting it out without the weight of expectation on it that comes with a Black Veil Brides album.

However, Andy reiterated that Black Veil Brides comes first, and says he'll be busy for most of this year recording new material, then releasing and touring it. But that's just for starters. Let's speak to the man himself…

HOW DID THIS PROJECT COME ABOUT?

"My whole life, I've loved '80s synth and goth rock like The Sisters Of Mercy and Depeche Mode. My biggest love has always been the music Black Veil Brides make, but that doesn't mean I don't listen to or enjoy other things. The older I get, the more interest I have in writing other kinds of music. Over the last few years I've been thinking up ways I could write this music, on my own or with friends of mine. I started writing some songs with [John] Feldmann at the start of the year – just playing around."

WHEN DID YOU BECOME MORE SERIOUS ABOUT GOING SOLO?

"The idea of doing it as a side-project didn't really interest me until I got about nine songs in and realised I had some great stuff. I'm not sure what the full intention is – I haven't signed with a label, for example, but I've made a music video. Right now I'm giving the music away for free."

WORDS: TOM BRYANT PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

IS THERE A REASON WHY YOU COULDN'T DO THIS KIND OF MUSIC WITHIN BLACK VEIL BRIDES?
"It was always the intention to do it as a hobby. There are so many bands I loved growing up whose singer would have a new idea for a sound and then completely ruin the band by taking a shit on the whole audience. That wasn't my interest. There's no place for Depeche Mode and The Sisters Of Mercy in the music I make with my band. If I was a fan, I wouldn't want to hear that on a Black Veil Brides record. It was important for me and for the integrity of the band not to tarnish it."

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHAT BLACK VEIL BRIDES FANS MIGHT HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR NEW DIRECTION?
"I don't think it's respectful to the fans to just shove every little interest I have into their face. So, to me, this is a chance to do something fun, but also something I don't have to labour over or worry about because, at the end of the day, it's just fun. I can release it and if the fans like it, they like it. And if they don't, they don't."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BLACK VEIL BRIDES – ARE YOU LAYING A PATH TO GO COMPLETELY SOLO?
"It would be different if the reason I was doing this was that I wanted to get away from Black Veil Brides. For some artists who do this, it's because there's an element in their main music that's missing, and I understand that. But this is more that I didn't want to cross the two things. If I came to the band and said, 'I want to do this '80s synth thing,' then they would have been nervous, but they would have made it work. But I don't want to do that, but I also don't want to neglect an opportunity to do something that could be fun while I have the chance."

WHAT WAS THE BAND'S REACTION TO YOU DOING A SOLO PROJECT?
"I made it very clear. I told the band what was going on and made it clear it was a passion project on the side, and everyone in the band gets it. And because we're doing this Black Veil record at the moment, it's a non-issue, because they know I'm totally committed to the band."

SO, WHY CHANGE YOUR NAME TO ANDY BLACK FOR THIS?
"I chose the name Andy Black because it feels like a good way to distinguish this from the band, because I don't want too much confusion. To me, this is an alter ego and the way that I'm singing is an alter ego. It's a whole different side of my personality. This is a total passion project and I'm really enjoying writing these songs and being a little more cryptic and moody."

"I'M TACKLING MY FEARS... LIKE BATMAN!"
Andy Biersack

WHAT IS THAT OTHER SIDE OF YOUR PERSONALITY THAT'S COMING OUT?
"I've got an idea behind this project, which is the idea of the 'shadow side'. That's an old psychiatric term which is used to describe the process whereby someone takes something that scares them and then comes to own it. A good example is Batman, who has a fear of bats and so takes that on and overcomes it. Another is the way the gay community has taken on the pink triangle that Hitler used to paint on gay people in concentration camps – now that pink triangle is used as a logo in gay bars. That's the sort of idea I'm playing with."

BUT WHY DO THIS NOW?
"Careers are very fleeting. Young bands always think they're going to be around forever, and I'd love to have that longevity, but I don't take it for granted. And so I want to take these chances. Everybody has a hobby. Jake [Pitts, Black Veil Brides guitarist] likes to produce bands; other people like to build things in their garage. I'm not particularly handy – I don't know my way around recording gear – but I do know how to write music. So this is my hobby – it relaxes me, it's something I enjoy and I don't have to live up to any expectations. I can play with music and sounds and do things I wouldn't want to do in the context of our band."

ARE THERE PLANS FOR A FULL ALBUM?
"I've got enough songs for a full album, but I'm not sure what the plan is. First, we're going to release a video. We made that on our own, with no budget, with my longtime friend and collaborator Patrick Fogarty, who has made almost all the BVB videos. We just did it for the fun of it because I was proud of the song, and so that will come out online for free."

THEY DON'T NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS RELEASED ON MAY 26

Andy's Black Veil Brides look: leathery

The infamous Black Veil Brides BBQ disaster of 2013

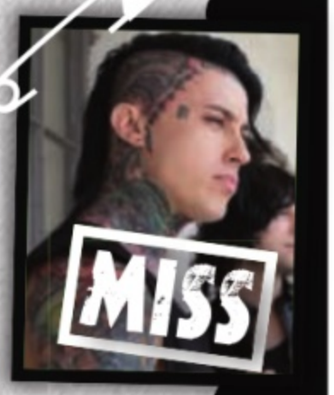
Oooh suits you, sir

GOING SOLO: HIT OR MISS?

SIDE-PROJECTS CAN GO ONE OF TWO WAYS, SO HERE ARE SOME SOLO STARS' HITS AND MISSES...

DALLAS GREEN GETS FOLKY

We all knew the bespectacled one in Alexisonfire had a cracking voice, but no-one could've predicted how successful he would have been with solo project City And Colour. A 2013 arena tour with Biffy sealed the deal. Success!



RONNIE RADKE GOES RAP

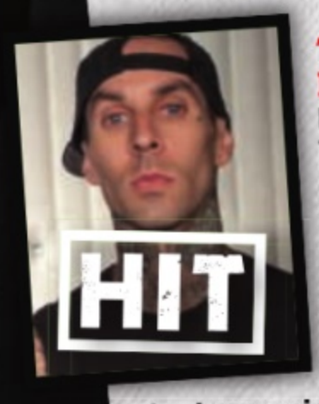
Sorry, Ronnie, we know you've got more swag than a cat burglar, but you're just not Eminem. We'd like to see less spitting beats and more beatdowns on the next Falling In Reverse record, please. We'd settle for spitting on top of beatdowns, obvs.

STEVE HARRIS UNLEASHES THE BRITISH LION

When Iron Maiden's bassist decided to do his own thing, we knew it would be a roaring success. Needless to say, when we heard the finished thing we were all feline it and we'd be lion if we said otherwise.

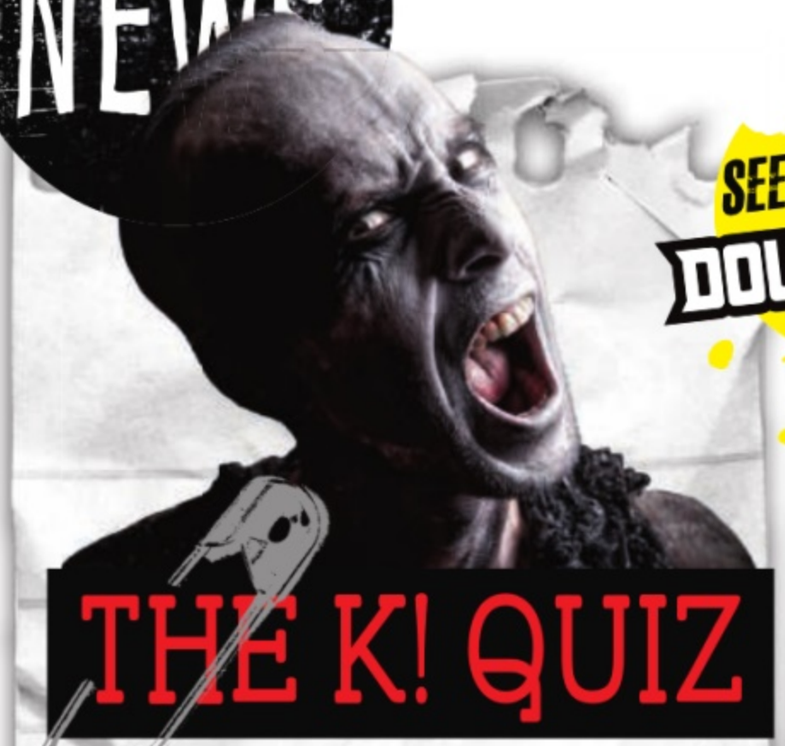
PATRICK STUMP GETS HIS POPSTAR ON

He's arguably one of the best songwriters in rock, but somehow his craft for a catchy hook didn't translate into success for his solo project. It was probably for the best, though, as it meant we got more Fall Out Boy. Phew.



TRAVIS BARKER'S HIP-HOP BEATS

Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Tim Armstrong, Pharrell Williams, Slash. No, not a list of people that we'd want on our side in a fight, but just some of the guests on the blink-182 sticksman's hip-to-the-hop project. If you're going have your mates on an album, make sure they're super-famous, just like Travis.



SEE THEM AT DOWNLOAD

BRING ME... A NEW ALBUM!

BRING ME THE HORIZON'S JORDAN FISH TALKS DOWNLOAD, WEMBLEY AND THE BAND'S NEW MUSIC...

It wouldn't be the Britain Rocks! issue without Bring Me The Horizon, would it? And with huge shows at Download and Wembley Arena looming, what better time to catch up with the band's electronics wizard/keyboard player, Jordan Fish, and find out what they've got planned. Oh, and he also told us about BMTH's first new music since Sempiternal and, er, wanting to record with Craaaaig David...

DOWNLOAD'S CLOSING IN – ARE YOU READY?
"Yeah, Download's the big one for us this summer. Even if we try and convince ourselves it's just another gig, your brain knows it's the big one – and we all know Download's a big deal. It was the same for Reading Festival last year – I was absolutely shitting myself, because I knew it was the biggest gig I'd ever played. You just have to accept you're going to be nervous and get on with it."

YOU'RE ON BEFORE LINKIN PARK AND FALL OUT BOY, SO WHAT TRICKS HAVE YOU GOT UP YOUR SLEEVE?
"(*Laughs*) Our show's all about crowd interaction and energy. We didn't have loads of production at Reading – we just had a shitload of guitar cabs and a backdrop, and it was one of the best shows we've ever played. It's more important that you get the right songs."

WEMBLEY'S NOT UNTIL DECEMBER, BUT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THAT YET?
"We've spoken a little bit about production and discussed some possible support acts. We're trying to make it so it's not just about walls of death and circle pits, so even if you're seated, you'll still be entertained. That one's going to be out-there in terms of production. We're thinking of some crazy ideas. I'd like to fly off on a jetpack at the end..."

IT SOUNDS AWESOME. IS IT TRUE YOU'RE ALREADY WORKING ON SOME NEW MATERIAL?
"Yeah. We've tried not to put any pressure on it. We'll fit a bit of writing in, fuck around and see if we get anything. We'll come back to all the ideas when we really sit down to write the album, and some of them will make it in."

"I'M GETTING A JETPACK FOR WEMBLEY..." Jordan Fish

SO, WHAT'S IT SOUNDING LIKE?
"We've written some really rocky songs, some stupid UK garage-type songs – it's mental at the moment, 'cause we're just writing for fun. It could sound like anything when we're done!"

...UK GARAGE, THOUGH?!
"(*Laughs*) Yeah, we're thinking about getting Craig David on a track. If I could just get him to stop being such a lazy bastard and sing on a track."

TO BE FAIR, HE'S MAKING LOVE MOST OF THE WEEK...
"Yeah, exactly. He's only free on Sunday – and he chills then."

BRING ME THE HORIZON PLAY DOWNLOAD IN JUNE, SEE THE GIG GUIDE

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

THE K! QUIZ

NERGAL, BEHEMOTH

Is there as much grey matter in his head as on it?

1 ON WHAT SLAYER ALBUM WOULD YOU FIND THE TRACK JESUS SAVES?
NERGAL: "Reign In Blood. That's a really underrated track, man!" ✓

2 CARACAS IS THE CAPITAL OF WHICH SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY?
NERGAL: "Venezuela. We've tried to tour there before but it hasn't worked out, but South America is very special to my heart." ✓

3 WHO DIRECTED A CLOCKWORK ORANGE AND THE SHINING?
NERGAL: "Was that Oliver Stone?"
K!: "No, Stanley Kubrick." ✗

4 IN WHAT BRITISH CITY WOULD YOU FIND ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB?
NERGAL: "I'm an anti-fan of soccer, so I'm guessing Manchester? It's London?" ✗

5 IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE SIMPSONS FIRST BROADCAST ON TV?
NERGAL: "Fucking hell, I've never watched it. I dunno, '91? No? I don't care!" ✗

6 WHAT IS THE ONLY CONTINENT ON WHICH YOU'LL FIND WILD TIGERS?
NERGAL: "Is it Africa? It isn't, it's Asia? Oh, man, I wouldn't have known that." ✗

7 IN WHAT YEAR DID THE FIRST WORLD WAR COMMENCE?
NERGAL: "1939 – I mean 1914! Sorry, I confused my wars for a moment there! I sometimes speak before I think!" ✓

8 HOW MANY HOURS ARE THERE IN A WEEK?
NERGAL: "Hold on... 168. Oh, man, I'm so bad at maths, I totally didn't think I was gonna get that one right." ✓

9 WHICH PLANET IS CLOSER TO THE EARTH – VENUS OR JUPITER?
NERGAL: "I'm gonna say Venus."
K!: "You're only bloody right!" ✓

10 WHAT WAS MAX CAVALERA'S FINAL ALBUM WITH SEPULTURA?
NERGAL: "Roots, of course! Yeah, more metal-based questions would have been welcome. Next time, my friends..." ✓

6 OUT OF 10

"Really that should have been a nine out of 10, but you caught me on a bad day," says Nergal. That's still a decent score, mate – Satan obviously wasn't on your side for this one, sir.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

THIS IS THE NEW WAY

THERE'S LIFE AFTER MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE AS GERARD WAY UNVEILS HIS NEW START, NEW WEBSITE… AND NEW MUSIC

IT'S BEEN over a year since My Chemical Romance's sudden split, and since then Gerard has publicly busied himself with creating the artwork for MCR's greatest hits, rearranging a folk song for upcoming Kevin Smith film Tusk, and penning a comic book series about cats. But we all suspected that Gerard's real work was going on behind the scenes, and his visit to a recording studio in Wales earlier this year only served to pique our interest even further.

Now, Gerard has unveiled phase one of his return to global domination… in the form of his new website, Gerardway.com.

There's minimal information on the site so far, but the opportunity for fans to subscribe to the mailing list and preorder his first T-shirt are all in place. Oh yeah, and there's a new tune, too!

Okay, so it's an extended snippet with no vocals, but it's the first song to be officially aired by Gerard and we couldn't be more excited about it if we tried. And believe us, we tried.

The frontman said that the new site will act as a place for his projects "large and small", including art, music and more.

He also revealed for the first time that he has signed to Warner Bros. and, excitingly, disclosed that his upcoming album is "near completion".

"MY ALBUM IS NEAR COMPLETION"
Gerard Way

See Gerard's open letter to fans, taken from his new site, in full below.

"I am beyond thrilled to finally have a place to share everything I make. I imagine you'll see/hear everything from blog posts to images, art, drawings, music, big projects and small projects, looks into things, under things, behind things, and in front of them. [The site] will also be the place to come for news on anything related to my ride into the next part of my life. I'd rather just start moving so I'd like to say thank you for stopping by, check me out on twitter @gerardway and please follow my friend, traveling companion, and news-broadcaster Lola on twitter, @lolaplusg for updates and info.

Oh, this is probably the best place to announce it so I am continuing full-steam into comics, art, and more importantly to some of you – music. I am pleased to let you know I am now signed as a solo artist [to] Warner Bros Records. My album is near completion, and you should expect to hear things in the near future, with a brief snippet of what is to come. I am excited. It's starting again."

G

Exciting, eh?! We can't wait to see, or hear, where this new phase takes Gerard.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT GERARDWAY.COM

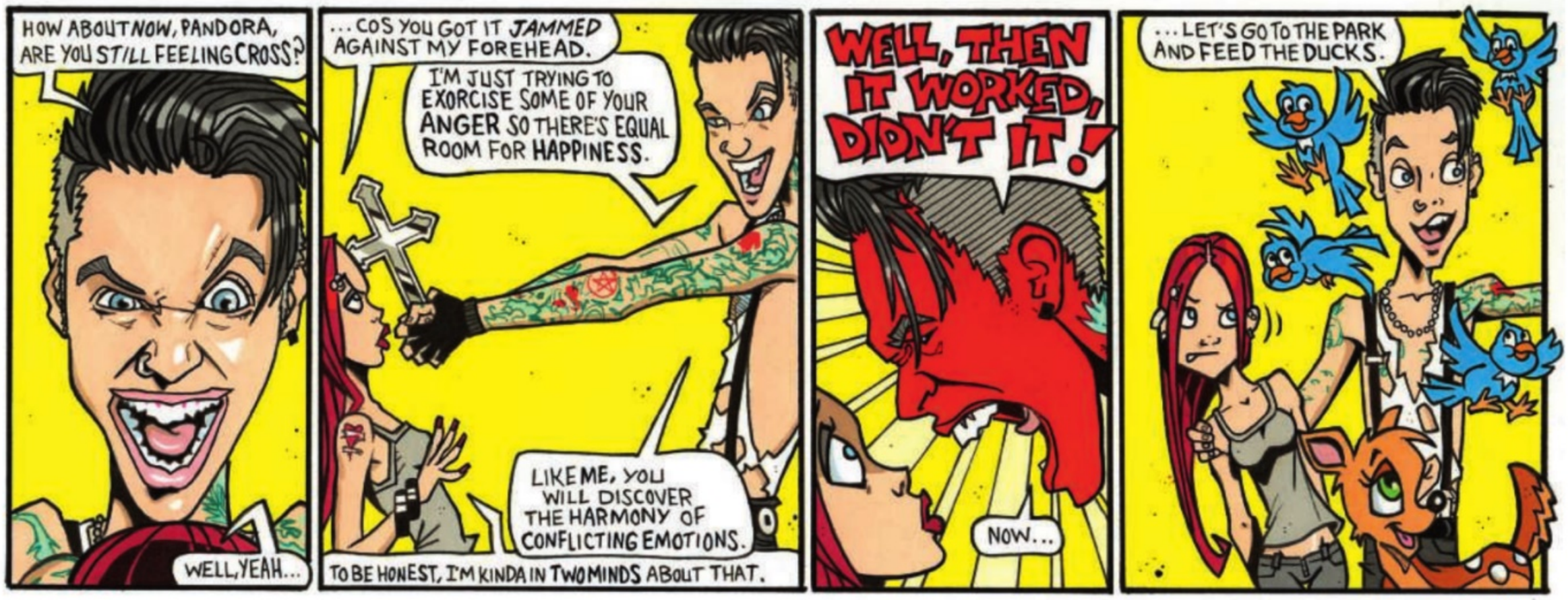
NEW TRACK PARADE!

WE ASKED THE BLACKOUT FRONTMAN AND MCR EXPERT SEAN SMITH WHAT HE THOUGHT OF GERARD'S NEW TRACK…

"The new track's definitely very raw and very grungy. It's almost like Oasis or Ocean Colour Scene. It's really exciting! Gerard's a really talented songwriter. When we toured with My Chem, he showed himself to be a really talented man, so no matter what comes out of this project it's definitely going to be awesome. Just as long as he doesn't release an MCR album with farts for vocals…"

PANDORA by Ray Zell

Rayzell.com



PARTY HARD!

WE ANNOUNCED THE RELENTLESS KERRANG! AWARD NOMINATIONS TO A ROOM FULL OF ROCKSTARS. HERE'S HOW IT WENT DOWN…

"**LET'S THROW** a party to announce the nominations for this year's Relentless Kerrang! Awards," we said. "We'll invite some rockstars and have a few quiet beers," we said… how wrong we were.

Relentless' @No.5 venue on Denmark Street took an absolute beating, as the likes of You Me At Six, Mallory Knox, Young Guns, Lonely The Brave, Bury Tomorrow, Baby Godzilla, Blitz Kids, Falling In Reverse, DragonForce and loads more descended for a wild one to find out who was in line for this year's awards.

We got totally out-nerded when Falling In Reverse axeman Jacky Vincent met his guitar hero, DragonForce's Herman Li.

Bury Tomorrow's Dani Winter-Bates cheered for Slayer to be nominated for every category, ("Best British Newcomer… SLAYERRRR!")

And a band that will remain totally nameless ended up going to a casino 'til 6am – presumably in preparation for this year's Vegas-themed awards.

So, the hangover's cleared, what now?

Well, now's your chance to vote on the shortlists and decide who's taking home a big metal K!.

If you want to see your favourite bands collecting awards at east London's Troxy on June 12, then fill in that form to the right and post it to us now!

Alternatively, head to Kerrang.com/awards and place your vote there. Over 30,000 people voted in the first 24 hours, so don't wait around.

Oh yeah, and keep your eyes on next week's issue, when we'll unveil how *you* can come down and party with all these rockstars and tons more at the Relentless Kerrang! Awards. If this bash was anything to go by, It's going to get reeeally messy…

Matt Godzilla and Mikey Knox. Weird surnames…

Not-so-Lonely The Brave's Gavin Edgeley

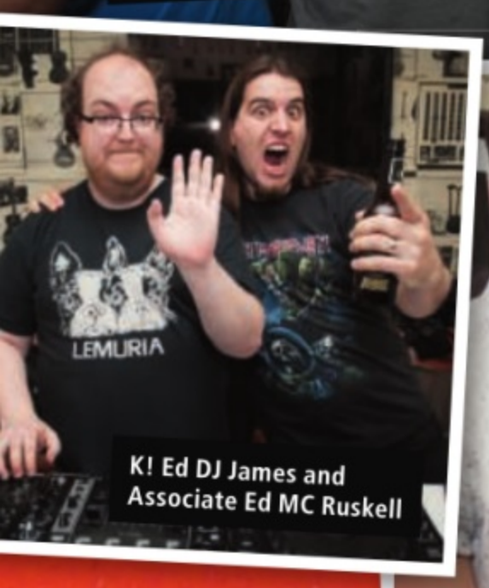
K!'s Alex Baker: a bit pleased to meet Bury Tomorrow's Dani

YMAS' Josh points out his own quote

Shredders: DragonForce's Herman with Falling In Reverse man Jacky

Photobomb! Joe Blitz Kids and Joe Mallory

Download's Andy Copping and K! New Music Ed Jen



K! Ed DJ James and Associate Ed MC Ruskell

Young Guns share drinks. Who knew?

HEAD ON OVER TO KERRANG.COM/AWARDS TO CAST YOUR VOTE NOW!

Relentless ENERGY DRINK
KERRANG! RADIO
KERRANG! TV
TROXY
SONISPHERE KNEBWORTH 4th-6th JULY 2014
STREET LEAGUE CHANGE LIVES THROUGH FOOTBALL

PHOTOS: IAN COLLINS

BEST BRITISH NEWCOMER

PRESENTED BY SONISPHERE

- ❑ Blitz Kids
- ❑ Bury Tomorrow
- ❑ Decade
- ❑ Lonely The Brave
- ❑ Neck Deep

THE NOMINEE SPEAKS!

ALEX SEARS, DECADE

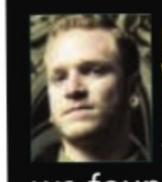
"We've always read Kerrang!, so to be up for an award like this means so much to us. To be recognised as one of the best new British bands is all we could wish for. I'll probably have a drink on the night and go up to one of my heroes and be like, 'Dude! You're the best guy ever!' Bring it on."

BEST INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMER

PRESENTED BY TROXY

- ❑ 5 Seconds Of Summer
- ❑ Crossfaith
- ❑ Issues
- ❑ State Champs
- ❑ We Came As Romans

THE NOMINEE SPEAKS!



DAVID STEPHENS, WE CAME AS ROMANS

"We're ecstatic! It was kinda cool when we found out, because our van broke down near Florida and we all got the group text and went, 'Oh, shit!' We're all so super-excited about it. When the band started out, we never expected to get recognised in the UK. It's great that it's a fans-voted award, because without those guys we couldn't exist. Now we're just hungry for more!"

BEST VIDEO

PRESENTED BY KERRANG! TV

- ❑ 30 Seconds To Mars – City Of Angels
- ❑ A Day To Remember – Right Back At It Again
- ❑ All Time Low – A Love Like War feat. Vic Fuentes
- ❑ Deaf Havana – Boston Square
- ❑ Falling In Reverse – Bad Girls Club

BEST SINGLE

PRESENTED BY KERRANG! RADIO

- ❑ All Time Low – A Love Like War feat. Vic Fuentes
- ❑ My Chemical Romance – Fake Your Death
- ❑ Of Mice & Men – You're Not Alone
- ❑ We Are The In Crowd – The Best Thing (That Never Happened)
- ❑ You Me At Six – Fresh Start Fever

THE NOMINEE SPEAKS!

JOSH FRANCESCHI, YOU ME AT SIX

"The awards are going to be crazy! Every year our friends and heroes are all there – last year I met Queen, and I was just like, 'Okay, that was fucked-up in the most perfect way ever!' You never know what the evening is going to throw at you, but you've just got to take it in your stride and enjoy it, because those sort of nights only come around once a year for us! It's just really great to be asked to come back. It's a massive testament to our fanbase, basically, because if they don't go out and vote for you, then you don't get recognised. We're up for a load of awards and I feel like You Me At Six still have a really positive energy around us right now. Thanks so much – I hope our fans keep voting for us!"

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

- ❑ Avenged Sevenfold
- ❑ Black Veil Brides
- ❑ Fall Out Boy
- ❑ Green Day
- ❑ Metallica

BEST BRITISH BAND

- ❑ Asking Alexandria
- ❑ Biffy Clyro
- ❑ Bring Me The Horizon
- ❑ Iron Maiden
- ❑ You Me At Six

BEST LIVE BAND

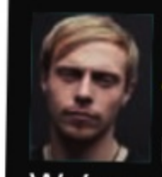
- ❑ Baby Godzilla
- ❑ Bring Me The Horizon
- ❑ letlive.
- ❑ Paramore
- ❑ You Me At Six

BEST ALBUM

PRESENTED BY RELENTLESS

- ❑ Architects – Lost Forever // Lost Together
- ❑ Avenged Sevenfold – Hail To The King
- ❑ Behemoth – The Satanist
- ❑ Tonight Alive – The Other Side
- ❑ You Me At Six – Cavalier Youth

THE NOMINEE SPEAKS!



SAM CARTER, ARCHITECTS

"We worked so hard on the album. We're so proud of it and it's just really great to have that recognition of your hard work – it's such an amazing category to be in. Biffy won last year, and it's amazing to be considered for the same award as them. It'd be incredible if we won!"

BEST EVENT

- ❑ Bury The Hatchet Tour – Falling In Reverse / Escape The Fate
- ❑ Save Rock And Roll Tour – Fall Out Boy
- ❑ House Party Alexandra Palace show – A Day To Remember
- ❑ Parahoy! – Paramore
- ❑ Save Our Venues – Arcane Roots / We Are The Ocean / Fearless Vampire Killers

BEST TV SHOW

- ❑ Breaking Bad
- ❑ Game Of Thrones
- ❑ Orange Is The New Black
- ❑ True Detective
- ❑ The Walking Dead

BEST VIDEO GAME

- ❑ Batman: Arkham Origins
- ❑ Bioshock Infinite
- ❑ Grand Theft Auto V
- ❑ The Last Of Us
- ❑ Luigi's Mansion 2

BEST FILM

- ❑ Dallas Buyers Club
- ❑ Gravity
- ❑ The Hunger Games: Catching Fire
- ❑ The Lego Movie
- ❑ Metallica Through The Never

BEST COMEDIAN

- ❑ Jarrod Alonge
- ❑ Louis C.K.
- ❑ Micky Flanagan
- ❑ Steve Hughes
- ❑ Zach Galifianakis

TWEETER OF THE YEAR

- ❑ Gene Simmons
- ❑ Gerard Way
- ❑ Keith Buckley
- ❑ Mark Hoppus
- ❑ Pete Wentz

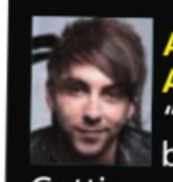
HOTTEST FEMALE

- ❑ Ash Costello – New Years Day
- ❑ Jenna McDougall – Tonight Alive
- ❑ Lzzy Hale – Halestorm
- ❑ Tay Jardine – We Are The In Crowd
- ❑ Taylor Momsen – The Pretty Reckless

HOTTEST MALE

- ❑ Alex Gaskarth – All Time Low
- ❑ Andy Biersack – Black Veil Brides
- ❑ Ben Bruce – Asking Alexandria
- ❑ John Goblikon – Nekrogoblikon
- ❑ Max Helyer – You Me At Six

THE NOMINEE SPEAKS!



ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW

"Ah, maaan. I can't believe you guys! Getting nominated for this is cool. I'm blushing and I'm very, very flattered. To know that the fans think I'm a good-looking young chap means a lot to me. Honestly, I really hope that I get to date all of our fans who voted for me to win this category. I'm going to date you all at some point. At least once. Even if it's just so I can reciprocate and tell them how beautiful they are. You hear that? You're all beautiful, too. Let's share this award. When I win, obviously…"

BEST FESTIVAL

- ❑ Bloodstock Open Air
- ❑ Download
- ❑ Reading & Leeds
- ❑ Slam Dunk
- ❑ Vans Warped Tour UK

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

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SEE THEM AT DOWNLOAD

BRITAIN ROCKS!

THE HOWLING

STAND BACK... THIS LONDON MOB HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY ROCK

COOL BAND NAME. I USED TO BE A WEREWOLF, BUT I'M ALRIGHT NOOOOOW...

Crap joke, bro. In fact, the name isn't lycanthrope-related at all. Originally called "something like The Counterfeit Hearts", according to vocalist Blacky, this east London five-piece actually got inspiration for their name when they were given a slapped wrist for making too much noise. "We had an official complaint from the council that the sound was 'howling through the walls'," Blacky laughs. And the rest, as they say, is history.

SO, DOES IT SOUND LIKE HOWLING?

Head to Kerrang.com and download Dance Of The Skeletons for a taster of the band's hybrid sound. It was born when Blacky and lead guitarist The Rev (formerly of the Towers Of London) would go out DJing, adding their own twist to classic rock (AC/DC, Guns N' Roses) and punk tracks (Sex Pistols, The Clash) via their remixes. "The crowds loved it," explains the frontman. "In fact, they were going down even better than the originals! Then we started thinking, 'There's not a band around who's done something like that, and we've got the talent, so let's go for it!'"

SO HOW DID THEY GO FOR IT ON THEIR DEBUT ALBUM?

What, The Big Smoke & Mirrors? "It's about my journey through London," explains Blacky. "London seemed like a place I wanted to be, but there are a lot of traps you can fall into – which I did." While too much partying certainly gave Blacky plenty of material, he confesses, "It was hard to get myself out of that scene to get my head together to write."

"THE COUNCIL TOLD US OFF FOR HOWLING!"

WELL AT LEAST THEY MANAGED IT. WE HEAR THEY'VE GOT A FAMOUS FAN, TOO...

They have indeed. The Mighty Boosh madman Noel Fielding has described Blacky's vocals – to the frontman's great amusement – as 'a prepubescent Jim Morrison' (the frontman of The Doors – ask your dad). It turns out Noel may have been leading the band astray, too, including at one particularly colourful party.

OOOOOH, DO TELL...

"We were throwing food off of the balcony onto the celebrities below," remembers Blacky. "When we got inside, it turned out that ['80s popstar] Chesney Hawkes was there, so we got the DJ to put on The One And Only and made him sing along to it." Expect The Howling's remix of that very soon (or don't).

HEAR THEM NOW ON KERRANG.COM

MEET THE BAND!

NOW YOU KNOW BLACKY CAN LEVITATE, SEE WHAT LIFTS HIS BANDMATES UP...

THE REV (*LEAD GUITAR*): "When it comes to being a rockstar, The Rev is the epitome of it. As soon as you get him onstage, you can see it. He lives and breathes rock."

GRIMES (*RHYTHM GUITAR*): "Technically, as a guitarist, I've never come across anyone who's anywhere near him. As soon we bring a song, I know he's going to bring something within a second that sounds great."

CHAPPELL (*BASS*): "Chappell's taken what we've done to a much higher level. He's like our producer before we go and get it done. He started on rhythm guitar, but he changed from guitar to bass when Grimes got involved."

JACKYBOY (*DRUMS*): "With a drummer, you want someone who's going to back up the track, but then be noticed at the right time. He's perfect at that – he keeps the songs sounding bang-on!"

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST SONGS IN ROCK THIS WEEK? LET'S CONSULT THE OFFICIAL CHART…

No.	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	2	1	YOU ME AT SIX	Cold Night	BMG
2	2	1	TWIN ATLANTIC	Heart And Soul	RED BULL RECORDS
3	4	2	TONIGHT ALIVE	The Edge	SONY
4	7	2	MARMOZETS	Why Do You Hate Me?	ROADRUNNER
5	11	1	MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE	Fake Your Death	REPRISE
6	8	6	CANTERBURY	Expensive Imitation	HASSLE
7	5	1	HEAVEN'S BASEMENT	Can't Let Go	RED BULL RECORDS
8	13	4	BLITZ KIDS	On My Own	RED BULL RECORDS
9	11	1	THE PRETTY RECKLESS	Heaven Knows	GOIN' DOWN INC
10	16	2	FALLING IN REVERSE	Bad Girls Club	EPITAPH
11	1	11	DEAF HAVANA	22	BMG
12	13	1	PARAMORE	Ain't It Fun	FUELED BY RAMEN
13	16	3	A DAY TO REMEMBER	Right Back At It Again	ADTR RECORDS
14	5	12	IN HEARTS WAKE	Divine	WE ARE UNIFIED
15	9	8	YASHIN	D.E.A.D.	TRANSCEND MUSIC
16	10	8	VERSES	Making Statues	A.O.K
17	11	8	WE ARE THE IN CROWD	The Best Thing (That Never Happened)	HOPELESS
18	22	1	YOU ME AT SIX	Fresh Start Fever	BMG
19	14	6	NECK DEEP	Growing Pains	HOPELESS
20	8	2	ROYAL BLOOD	Little Monster	IMPERIAL GALACTIC

COLD NIGHT
YOU ME AT SIX
Second week on the Rock Chart and the Surrey mob have already made it to Number One. Hopefully they'll make enough money from this song to have their heating fixed. Bless 'em.

BAD GIRLS CLUB
FALLING IN REVERSE
Ronnie Radke is also on the rise, jumping four places this week. We asked him how much membership to the Bad Girls Club was and he told us we couldn't afford it. Sadface.

22
DEAF HAVANA
It's a new entry from the King's Lynn sextet! We don't know about you, but James Veck-Gilodi's feeling 22. He's never, ever getting back together with you, either.

THE BEST THING (THAT NEVER HAPPENED)
WE ARE THE IN CROWD
It's re-entry time for the Poughkeepsie pop-punks! All together now: *'You ain't nothin' but a prick!'* [insert sassy girl emoji here].

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs every Thursday at 5pm and every Saturday at 6pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO

CHART ATTACK!

IN 5… 4… 3… 2… 1…

READERS' CHART

BY BETHANY KIRKBRIDE, SHEFFIELD

1 NECK DEEP, WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
"There's a hypnotic quality to this track, with the half-paced chorus making it stick out like a sore thumb from the rest of Wishful Thinking."

2 JACK WHITE, LAZARETTO
"This features a truly spectacular riff, and one of the best conclusions to a track I've heard in a long while!"

3 QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE, I APPEAR MISSING
"The theatrical vibe to this track cannot be overstated, showcasing the genius that is Josh Homme."

4 LED ZEPPELIN, ACHILLES LAST STAND
"The galloping bassline in this song merged with the climactic drumming makes it well and truly epic."

5 BEARTOOTH, DEAD
"My only complaint about this track is the fact it's so short. It's two minutes well utilised, though – this is hectic!"

ROCKSTAR CHART

BY PETE WENTZ, FALL OUT BOY

1 SKY FERREIRA, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE
"There's something about it that reminds me of an old blink-182 melody, which isn't the vibe she's going for, but it really kind of jumps out."

2 THE KNIFE, HEARTBEATS
"They're a Swedish band, and it's good music to run to – I need to get more active, and this is good inspiration!"

3 VAMPIRE WEEKEND, YA HEY
"I got to hang with Ezra [Koenig] from the band and I thought he was brilliant – then I heard this great song without knowing it was him! That was cool."

4 ARCTIC MONKEYS, DO I WANNA KNOW?
"Lyrically, Arctic Monkeys kill it every time, and it's just a great song."

5 KAVINKSY, NIGHTCALL
"This is from the movie Drive [2011]. I liked everything about that film – it appealed to every bizarre part of me! I like to play it when I'm driving."

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

RANDOM CHART

THIS WEEK: SAY CHEEEEEESE!

1 TAKING BACK SUNDAY, THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS PROOF (I KNOW YOU KNOW)
Stay away from Adam Lazzara if you want to get away with crimes.

2 DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, PHOTOBOOTH
Passport Photo For Cutie, more like. And no, you can't see ours. It's horrible. Really horrible.

3 NICKELBACK, PHOTOGRAPH
Look at this photograph! Look at it! Looooooooooooook aaaaaaaaaaat itttttttttttt!

4 SLEEPING WITH SIRENS, POSTCARDS AND POLAROIDS
Only $80 for a Polaroid of you and Kellin. Yeah, we went there.

5 FILTER, TAKE A PICTURE
We'd absolutely love to, Filter, but our iPhone is on 10 per cent battery and we need it for the journey home. Sorry!

FEEDBACK

THE EXORCISM OF OUR POSTBAG

★E-MAIL Feedback@kerrang.com ★WRITE Feedback!, PO Box 2930, London W1A 6DZ ★WEBSITE Kerrang.com

LETTER OF THE WEEK

DEAR KERRANG!, I loved reading about the exorcism of Andy Biersack last week. I'm a huge Black Veil Brides fan, and Andy is the main reason I love them so much. He's been an inspiration to me for three years, and he's one of the strongest, most helpful rockstars in the world. I've had problems of my own, and reading about how someone as cool and popular as Andy has dealt with his problems, and how he still gets shit off people, makes you realise that everyone goes through these things and that you're not alone.

Thanks, and massive love to the BVB army!

BERTRAM, SUSSEX

He's an inspiring man, all right. And letters like this are precisely the reason why we love to keep putting Andy in the magazine. He's never backed down from anything, and he's always made time for his fans. He realises what he means to you guys, and he's always the first to say how important you are to him, too. And his name is an anagram of 'A Crab's Kidney'. Top dude.

WIN! 5 ALBUMS OF YOUR CHOICE!

BERTRAM, YOUR LETTER HAS WON YOU FIVE ALBUMS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AT THE USUAL ADDRESS, AND WAIT BY THE LETTER BOX

WHO'S GOT A (FOOTBALL) MATCH?

HI KERRANG!, I went to the Manchester United game on Saturday. Walking out the ground after we got beat, I was pretty annoyed. But then I saw my idol Simon Neil with his wife! I got a photo with him – he's genuinely the nicest guy ever! 'MON THE BIFF!!

JOE, VIA EMAIL

Yes he is. However, arf at United's humiliating defeat. Again.

GIVE ME NOVA-CAKE!

HEY KERRANG!, it was my 16th birthday the other week. I'm a massive Green Day fan, and so what better cake to have than a Green Day cake?! Although I must admit, I couldn't bring myself to eat any of the figures around it.

SAMANTHA, VIA EMAIL

Keep them. Preserve them forever. Then one day, years in the future, a scientist will figure out how to turn them into real boys. And then they'll rise up and enslave us… actually, eat them now and save the world.

IT'S A GODDAMNED ARMS RACE

HI KERRANG!, Here's a picture of my AWESOME Fall Out Boy tattoo! I had it done as a birthday gift. Fall Out Boy mean the world to me. I read Kerrang! religiously, and it would mean the world if you could put this in the next issue.

CHY, SOUTH WALES

AWESOME ink. Get a K! next time! No? Okay…

HEAVY METAL PET OF THE WEEK!

HI K!, this is my kitten, Po. I've only had her for two weeks and I think she's already turned into a rock kitty by my influence, because she loves watching Kerrang! TV and reading the magazine – just like me!

ANGEL, VIA EMAIL

Just like you, you say? So, does that mean it works the other way? You crap where you want, eat mice and enter your house via a seven-by-seven-inch flap in the back door? But we're being silly, cats clearly can't read…

tweets of the week

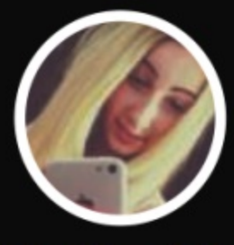
Because rockstars are obsessed with Twitter, too...

@stevenjbattelle
Steven Battelle, LostAlone
"This service station blew my mind! Enormous forecourt!"

@ronnieinreverse
Ronnie Radke, Falling In Reverse
"If you start tattooing on your hands and throat before anything else: fuck you."

@TMORELLO
Tom Morello
"When I was a kid I thought quicksand was going to be a much bigger problem on a daily basis than it really is."

reader tweet



@Fxckingdirtbag
Shakira
"It's getting to the point where I am waking dad up by postering my room in the middle of the night due to buying @KerrangMagazine"

THE GALLERY

PAINT THE VEIL

HEY KERRANG!, I drew this picture of Vic Fuentes. He's one of my favourite vocalists, and I'd love if this could get into the magazine!

TERRI, VIA EMAIL

ARTIST CASE

HI K!, I'm 15 and I've recently just finished a drawing of Billie Joe Armstrong. Green Day are my whole life and I'd really appreciate it if you could publish this in your magazine. Thanks!

JODIE, VIA EMAIL

Win! PEARL JAM TICKETS!!!!!

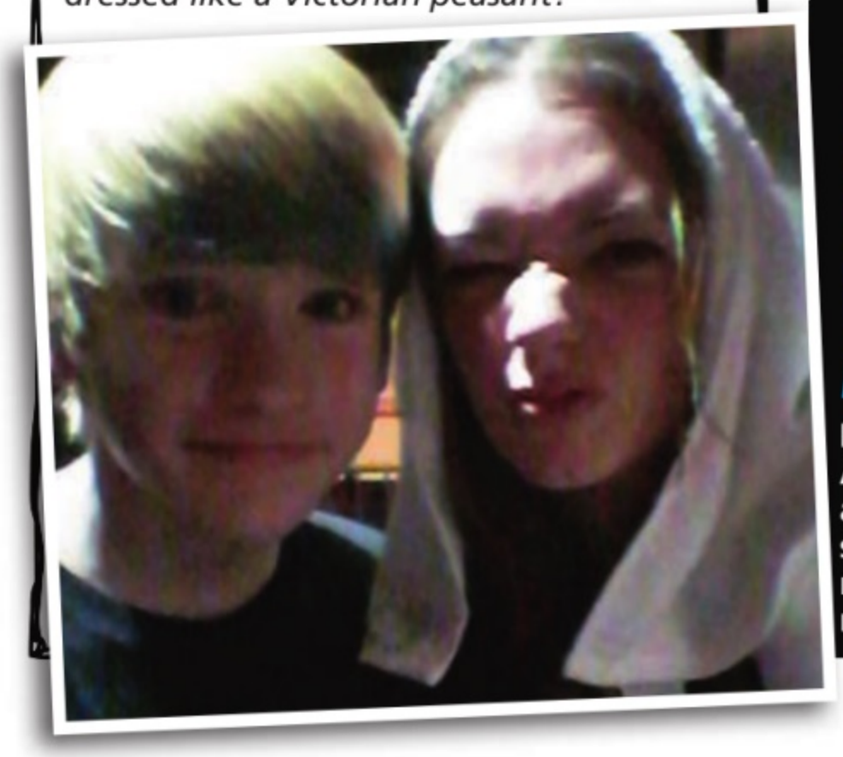
Cor, look, Pearl Jam are playing at Milton Keynes Bowl on July 11. Oooooh. If the excitement of hearing two hours-plus of killer Pearl Jam jams such as Alive and Even Flow isn't enough, there's every chance you could bump into Eddie Vedder at the Woughton Centre. Chances of that are very slim, mind, but to increase your chances of seeing the actual gig by 100 per cent, we have some tickets to give away. Three pairs, in fact. And winning them is easier than trying to figure out what time Vedder's gonna be heading for a quick bite at Milton Keynes Nando's. All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is head to Greatcompetitions.co.uk/kerrang and answer the insultingly easy question. Then get ready to sing along to Alive. Alive! Alive, we say!

WHY DO YOU HATE ME? UM, WE DON'T, IT SEEMS...

HEY K!, I recently went to a Marmozets gig, and they were brilliant and gave off such good energy. At the end, I was lucky enough to get my ticket signed and have a picture with Becca. She's such an awesome person and she called me 'buddy'!

TYLER, VIA EMAIL

Nice one, Tyler. Or should we call you Buddy, too? One question: why's Becca dressed like a Victorian peasant?



IS THIS YOU?

WIN! ANY ALBUM REVIEWED THIS WEEK!

ALKALINE TRIO, LONDON FORUM. 26.04.14

IS THIS you jumping through a big blue hoop at Alkaline Trio's London gig? Well then, you've won any album reviewed this week! To claim your album (please state your preference), send your name, address, a recent pic of yourself, and the gig ticket (both will be returned) to the address at the top of this page!

PHOTO: ANDREW TIMMS

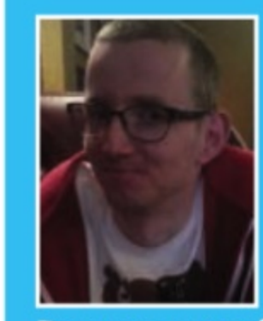
ROCK RUCK!

WHERE YOU AND A ROCK-STAR DUKE IT OUT OVER THE WEEK'S BURNING Q...

BRITISH OR U.S. POP-PUNK – WHICH IS BETTER?

SOUPY, THE WONDER YEARS

"Oh, man. Well, if you made a list of the 10 best pop-punk bands of all time, eight of them at least would be American. But that's because there's more of it, from Ramones and Descendents, to Green Day, and then new stuff like us or The Menzingers. Is that because it's sunnier in California and Florida than in the UK? Ha! Maybe. But there are great British bands, too. But yeah, the U.S. has more big bands you'd call a favourite, like blink-182."



ROB, VIA FACEBOOK

"Look at how many big pop-punk bands America has. There are loads! Green Day are one of the biggest bands in the world – there's not a British band that can compete with that kind of pop-punk success. But then, if you look at stuff like Slam Dunk, there are loads of smaller British pop-punk bands such as Neck Deep. They're all really great, home-grown bands who are giving the Americans a run for their money."

KERRANG! SAYS: Ooh, we're America, we've got Green Day and blink and Ramones... Okay, we're taking the piss. But both Soupy and Rob have a point – we may not have the giants, but we've got loads of killer pop-punks.

GOT AN OPINION? EMAIL US AT FEEDBACK@KERRANG.COM

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the GREAT BRITISH RIFF OFF!

STUFF YOUR TEA. STICK YOUR CRUMPETS. BIN YOUR FISH & CHIPS. THERE'S TRULY NOTHING MORE BRITISH THAN ROCK'N'ROLL. AND WHO BETTER TO KICK OFF THIS ISSUE'S CELEBRATION OF MUSIC ON THESE SHORES THAN THE MAN FLYING THE FLAG AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR SCENE, DANNY WORSNOP? HE'S GOT SOMETHING NEW TO REVEAL TO YOU ALL, TOO. BRACE YOURSELVES…

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

And good morning to you, too, Danny

It's a long way from Yorkshire to California. But, despite the fact that he lives some 5,000 miles away from his original home, Danny Worsnop considers Asking Alexandria to be very much part of the British rock scene.

"I'm looking at our stage now and it's covered in British flags," laughs the singer, who divides his time between Los Angeles and a home in Dallas, Texas.

"I have noticed more rock coming out of Britain in recent years and it's great. Touring there, we've seen an enormous increase in the shows, but outside of us getting bigger I've seen the rock and metal population in general getting bigger."

Six months ago, Asking Alexandria made an explosive appearance as part of the Rule Britannia arena tour with Bullet For My Valentine and Young Guns. In October and November this year, they'll play a 15-show tour of the UK and Ireland – their biggest headlining run on these shores to date. They're undoubtedly one of the most popular and incendiary bands Britain has produced in recent years, but they make no apologies for the fact that they concentrated on breaking through in America first.

It was a big gamble for a young band to fly out to the other side of the world, and they spent the first three months or so living in a camper van in a supermarket car park. It was hardly the high life, but the gamble paid off, and as they tore up the U.S. highways on a string of gruelling coast-to-coast tours, they ignited the fuse and then exploded.

Shortly before Asking Alexandria's show at 2011's Download Festival, Danny admitted to Kerrang! that his band were still playing catch-up in their own home country.

"We haven't played much in England, but when you get big in America the rest of the world pays attention," he told us then. "That's just the way it is, and it's why I feel we did the right thing in going there first. Most bands get big in England, then move to Europe, then kill themselves trying to break America. We've just done it the other way round."

That performance was a definite turning point for Asking Alexandria. Their second album, Reckless & Relentless, had been released a few weeks earlier, and the night before they had won the Best British Newcomer gong at the Relentless Kerrang! Awards. They were way down the bill, but at 5pm the tent containing the Pepsi Max Stage was crammed to capacity and beyond. Desperate scrums started to form at the entrances as more and more people tried to force their way in, and when AA finally hit the stage, the place went berserk.

"I really didn't know what to expect," the singer told K! later. "Cameron [Liddell, guitar] and James [Cassells, drums] had

been to Download when they were younger, but I'd never done anything like it. We were all still shit-faced from the Kerrang! Awards the night before and we didn't know what reaction we were going to get, but it was just immense. That was the moment we finally got the acknowledgement that we'd been waiting for. In a sense, everything since then has just blown up. It's exciting again. It's butterflies in the stomach. It's the same feeling we had when we were exploding in the States."

Fast-forward three years and Asking Alexandria are increasingly huge on both sides of the Atlantic. Last year saw them step up to Download's Main Stage, and then third studio album From Death to Destiny bruised the charts both at home and abroad – albeit still doing better in the U.S., where it debuted at Number Six in the official albums chart. It did make the Top 30 over here, though, and topped the UK rock and metal chart, which is hardly small potatoes.

Asking Alexandria's rise has been relentless all right, but the recklessness has never been too far behind. From Led Zeppelin to Ozzy Osbourne, British rock has produced a long line of hell-raisers – and Danny has kept that grimy, booze-soaked flag flying.

It hasn't always been pretty. At an infamous show in Seattle in 2011, Danny was so wasted that his own bandmate, guitarist Ben Bruce, took to the microphone and said to the crowd, "Let's do a vote right fuckin' now… who here will support us in putting my best friend through rehab and making him better?" When the singer finally crumpled to the floor, he was dragged from the stage by crew members and the band carried on without him.

Danny admitted that he went too far that time, but the band have all at times dived headlong into the hedonistic lifestyle that was once expected of rockstars.

They've made no secret of their love for '80s rock and metal, releasing the Life Gone Wild EP in 2010 as a fond pastiche of Skid Row. That was followed in 2012 by Under The Influence: A Tribute To The Legends Of Hard Rock. It featured covers of songs by the likes of Def Leppard and Whitesnake, and a storming run-through of Mötley Crüe's Kickstart My Heart – a song written by Crüe bassist Nikki Sixx detailing a drug overdose that saw him declared dead, before he was revived by adrenaline shots to the heart.

From Death To Destiny did see Asking bring in a few classic rock elements to their own songs – for proof, listen to the opening of White Line Fever, the anthemic chorus to The Road, the big power ballad Moving On, or the Rock Mix bonus track version of The Death Of Me. In general, though, their sound remains built on ferocious, modern-day metalcore.

Now, though, having teased us about the project in 2012 (K!1431), Danny is ready to unveil his new band, We Are Harlot. This is to be no Mötleycore-style hybrid but, the singer says, a full-on classic rock record.

"It's fun, energetic, personality-driven music reminiscent of Van Halen, with that sexy blues swagger of Aerosmith," he reveals. "We've got the huge Def Leppard vibe in there, too. We're all just huge fans of classic rock, so it was a natural thing for us. It's us tapping into something that doesn't exist [in music] anymore."

THE REVOLUTION IS NIGH

2014 PROMISES TO BE QUITE THE YEAR FOR BRITAIN'S FASTEST-RISING BANDS…

★ ARCANE ROOTS

Next month sees the release of AR's latest single, Over & Over – the band's first new material since last year's debut album, Blood & Chemistry. Hopefully, it'll give us a sniff of what their follow-up album, due in the summer of 2015, will smell like. Can't wait? Get yourself to Download or 2000trees, quick-sharp.

★ BABY GODZILLA

This year's Kerrang! Tour openers and Relentless Kerrang! Awards Best Live Band nominees are in the process of writing their debut album ahead of recording in July. That'll fit around trips to Download, Reading & Leeds, Camden Rocks, ArcTanGent, 2000trees and a load more.

★ BLITZ KIDS

Slam Dunk, Sonisphere, Black Sabbath Time… few bands have as many festivals inked in their 2014 SpongeBob SquarePants diaries as Blitz Kids. And that's before we've even thought about their adventures in Europe and further UK tours to see out a breakthrough year.

★ BRING ME THE HORIZON

Having blown out the candles on their 10th birthday cake a few issues back (K!1512) and completed a lengthy American tour, Horizon will make their biggest appearance at Download to date when they take to the Main Stage on the Saturday night. Then there's the small matter of a trip to Wembley Arena in December, and the promise of new material. See p8 for more on that…

★ DECADE

Pop-punk misery-guts' Decade are about to embark on their first-ever UK headline run, before appearances at Slam Dunk, 2000trees, NASS and Boardmasters festivals. We've heard some whispers of a couple of high-profile support slots as the year draws to a close, but we're not that confident you can keep a secret. Sorry.

★ ENTER SHIKARI

Enter Shikari's 2014 calendar has largely been covered in felt-tip pen that reads 'Warped Tour U.S.', where the band will be spending their summer holidays away from the studio, having begun work on a fourth album a couple of weeks ago. There's time for the band to pop up at Reading & Leeds before the sunburn fades, too.

★ GNARWOLVES

Get this, right. Gnarwolves – the trio of Brighton punks with but three EPs to their name – will be opening the Main Stage at Reading & Leeds this year. *Opening it*. Expect a debut album and headline tour to follow their August bank holiday adventures.

★ HAWK EYES

Leeds' premier riff merchants are close to revealing some new material to follow up 2013's That's What This Is EP, before a day out in the sunshine/rain at 2000trees. Bring earplugs.

★ JAMIE LENMAN

In his own words, Mr Lenman will be "bringing my own terrifying brand of jazz-metal to the summer festivals, including a headline slot on Download's Acoustic Stage. I'll also be releasing a dub remix of my entire album. One of these statements is untrue." We're guessing the former.

(CONTINUED ON P24)

They Are Harlot: (*from left*) Bruno Agra, The DW, Jeff George, Brian Weaver

"IT'S GREAT SEEING MORE ROCK COMING OUT OF BRITAIN"

DANNY WORSNOP

We Are Harlot have been a long time in the making. You could go back as far as Danny Worsnop's childhood obsession with acts such as Aerosmith and Mötley Crüe, but the band itself grew out of a series of sessions with drummer Bruno Agra in 2011 that were originally intended for Danny's solo album. The emphasis changed when the singer met guitarist Jeff George at a New Year's Eve party at the end of 2012. The pair had a similar taste in rock'n'roll – Jeff had also just landed the guitarist spot in former Skid Row frontman Sebastian Bach's band – and decided to work together.

"We were living 20 or 30 minutes apart in Los Angeles, and he just moved in with me in January, and we started working on music pretty much every day from that point on," Danny says. "The three of us wrote and recorded and ended up with 100-plus songs.

"I said, 'Look, I want this to be a proper band – I don't want this to be The Danny Worsnop Band.' So we just started brainstorming names and went from there. Brian [Weaver, bass], of the band Silvertide, was one of I think about 300 applicants who eventually got the job."

That name, by the way, remains something of a sore point for Danny and has been a source of some confusion. The band were originally simply called Harlot, and that's how the singer still refers to them. Due to legal issues, however, the band are billed as We Are Harlot for their forthcoming debut show at the Rock On The Range festival in Columbus, Ohio, and on "all the official paperwork". What name will be on the album cover when it finally comes out is still unclear.

"It's Harlot, but it's We Are Harlot, but it's Harlot," shrugs Danny.

Having had these songs for so long and not being able to get them out has, Danny says, been an incredibly frustrating experience. Now, though, it looks like it's full steam ahead.

"Rock On The Range is gonna be huge – we're expecting about 30,000 at that one," he says. "We're working on tours right now and we're trying to skip the club tours and go straight to the arenas and stadiums with some great headline acts. Then hopefully after a few of those we'll hit our own large theatres.

"It has been insanely frustrating," he admits. "It still is. We're looking to release the first single [this month] and then have the album out in July. A lot of it is to do with the schedule I've got with Asking at the same time, because we obviously don't want either band to be hindered in any way by the other, so we're making sure they run very smoothly."

When Danny first started We Are Harlot and talked about it in interviews, it did initially cause some friction within his day-job band.

"Back when it started, there were maybe concerns and stress and bitterness from the guys," he nods. "But over time, they've realised that it's not detrimental to Asking in any way. Everyone's calmed down, everyone's friends, and we'll hang out and drink and get stupid."

So if We Are Harlot exploded the way Asking Alexandria did, would you have to reconsider your priorities?

"I don't think so, because I've said since the beginning that both bands are getting my equal attention," he says. "Both bands are getting 100 per cent of my efforts when I'm with them. In terms of physical time on the road and stuff, it's gonna be right down the middle. Asking Alexandria always pretty much tours a set amount anyway, so it's not going to take anything away from that, and then the other half of my year is filled with the Harlot shenanigans."

The singer is keen to point out that We Are Harlot is not a side-project, and certainly not a one-off deal. It is, he says, a bona fide new band and an outlet away from AA that he very much needs.

"Without it, I'd go crazy. I *did* go crazy. And then, at the same time, I've got music outside Harlot as well. I'm still writing my own music, which is just me. I guess I just have one of those creative souls where I have to get it out. Or perhaps I just need to play some classic rock and jump around the stage without having to worry about if things are heavy and without having to try and start pits and all that crap. I can run around and just… look at boobs," he laughs.

You might think from that last statement that We Are Harlot is a bit of a laugh. A stress-free holiday without the pressures that come from existing success. According to Danny, nothing could be further from the truth.

"These songs have more pressure because the first time people hear Harlot it's gonna be make or break," he says. "A lot of people are assuming it's going to fail. There are some people hoping it does, because they just don't want me to succeed or they think it's going to hurt Asking Alexandria, which of course it will not. But there's definitely a pressure there to make it the best it can be. I intend this to be the best rock record of the decade."

He certainly doesn't do things by halves. Whether it does turn out to be the best rock record of the decade remains to be seen, but with Danny Worsnop at the helm, it's certain to be quite a ride.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA TOUR THE UK THIS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. WE ARE HARLOT'S DEBUT ALBUM IS EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR

Now was not the time for Danny's Union Flag parachute to fail

Did someone say walkies? (*From left*) Sam Carter, Austin Dickinson, Jenson the dog, Dani Winter-Bates

NEVER MIND THE DOG'S bOLLOCkS...

...THERE'S A NEW BREED OF ROCKSTAR IN TOWN. AS ARCHITECTS, RISE TO REMAIN AND BURY TOMORROW BARE THEIR TEETH, BRITISH ROCK'S LEADING STARS CHEW OVER THEIR EXPLOSION...

WORDS: SAM COARE **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

Kingsbury, north-west London, 1979. Steve Harris, the bassist of a then-little-known east London band, heads to the Heavy Metal Soundhouse night in a dodgy backroom of the Prince Of Wales pub, armed with a demo of his band's first material. After handing it over to the club night's resident DJ, the four tracks contained on that cassette would soon spark a revolution that would quickly be tagged 'NWOBHM': the New Wave Of British Heavy Metal (by future Kerrang! founder Geoff Barton, no less). Things worked out reasonably well for Steve's band, Iron Maiden, too.

Acton, west London, 2014. Okay, so we might have shifted down the road, the Soundhouse is long defunct, and the Prince Of Wales has since become a Tesco Express, but something, just like 35 years ago, is stirring. And it's not just the bowels of our British bulldog, Jenson.

By now, you'll no doubt have figured out what this issue is all about. British rock, after years of standing in the shadows of its behemoth of a cousin in America, is on the rise. The past 18 months alone have seen first-ever Number One albums from Biffy Clyro and You Me At Six. Before 2014 is out, Bring Me The Horizon will follow in those bands' footsteps by headlining London's Wembley Arena. Asking Alexandria have sold out the O2 Academy Brixton, and released a Top 30 album; Bullet For My Valentine challenged the Top 10; Deaf Havana smashed their way into it.

"British rock is definitely healthier than it's been in a long time," smiles Sam Carter, whose band, Architects, this March celebrated their sixth and best album yet, Lost Forever // Lost Together, which charted at an incredible 16, and bagged them a Relentless Kerrang! Award Best Album nomination.

Today, Sam is joined not only by Jenson, but two other frontmen whose bands are set to stick two fingers up – in the most British of manners, of course – at their opposite numbers in countries around the world.

For Bury Tomorrow, that started with their breakout performance at last year's Download Festival – a 30-minute set that immediately saw a spotlight shone their way and has made the wait for their impending third album, Runes, as annoying as an itch you can't reach.

Equally, off the back of a 5K-rated 'comeback' show of sorts in February – their first since opening Download 2013 themselves – and new single Over And Over, Rise To Remain have ensured that their as-yet-untitled second album, um, *remains* one of the most anticipated releases of 2014.

Yet none of these bands are exactly new kids on the block. Indeed, between them, they boast a collective 25 years as bands. So what, aside from being in the form of their lives, has changed to put these three names, and that of British rock in general, on the lips of music fans the world over?

THE REVOLUTION IS NIGH (CONTINUED)

★ LONELY THE BRAVE

Lonely The Brave will be releasing their much-delayed debut album, The Day's War, on June 2, before stuffing their bags full of clean socks for a summer's festival commitments, including Download.

★ MALLORY KNOX

Not even a studio fire during the recording of their second album could put paid to the rise of Mallory Knox. With Reading & Leeds inked in the diary, all eyes will be on that follow-up to 2013's Signals, which we're expecting to drop into our earholes – accompanied by a headline tour for our eyes – before you can say '2015'.

★ MARMOZETS

Everyone wants a piece of Marmozets right now – so much so, that the band are having to play *two* sets each day on the Reading & Leeds weekend. That will come off the back of a summer on Warped Tour U.S. and appearances at Slam Dunk *and* Download, before that debut album is *finally* unveiled…

★ NATIVES

The New Forest has always been most famous for ponies and sodden camping holidays. Natives are out to change that, though. Their debut full-length, Indoor War, was as bold in design (a concept album about a guy named Alvima trying to cope with loss) as it was promising. Catch 'em across the UK all summer long.

★ SAVE YOUR BREATH

Having given the world Bullet For My Valentine and Skindred, Newport's latest export will be taking their debut album, 2013's There Used To Be A Place For Us, on Slam Dunk, ahead of as-yet-unannounced autumn UK touring plans. Watch this space…

★ TWIN ATLANTIC

Having been squirrelled away in the studio, Twin's third album, Great Divide, is set to drop out of the skies this August. Just in time for Reading & Leeds, too. How's that for timing?

★ VERSES

Brighton's Verses will be releasing their debut album, Feel It Faster, this month, which will coincide with a headline tour and some summer festival action, starting with Slam Dunk. Lovely stuff.

★ WHILE SHE SLEEPS

It's a good thing WSS are made of stuff as tough as they are. And frontman Loz Taylor especially, after the screamer underwent throat surgery this year. Now, with Loz on the mend, a second album in sight, and the comeback show of all comeback shows set for Download, the Sheffield quintet are set to rise again.

★ YOU ME AT SIX

How does a band follow up their Wembley Arena debut? How about by, in the space of just a dozen months, taking to the 20,000-capacity O2 with 30 Seconds To Mars, bagging a Number One album, and embarking on their largest UK headline tour to date? Yeah, that'll do. Best chuck in sets at T In The Park and Reading & Leeds, plus a U.S. tour to close out the year, for good measure.

★ YOUNG GUNS

It's all quiet on the Young Guns front… well, except in their studio, where the band are holed up making one hell of a racket for their third album. They'll stagger, bleary-eyed, back into the real world for Reading & Leeds.

WITH THANKS TO SARAH WRIGHT AT ROCKETDOG.CO.UK FOR BRINGING JENSON!

Sam Carter, rudely not returning Jenson's fist-bump

Austin regretted keeping a Peperami in his pocket

"BRITISH ROCK IS BECOMING A COMMUNITY"
SAM CARTER, ARCHITECTS

With the Bands' Best Friend Jenson in need of a walk, we left the three frontmen to try to figure out just that…

SAM CARTER (ARCHITECTS): "First and foremost, I think the fans in the UK are more proud of being English [than they were]. When we all started, people were looking outside of the UK for metal or metalcore, because America was at the forefront of the scene. Now, it's awesome for people to be proud to be English. Everyone shows their allegiances, and that helps pack out shows that wouldn't have four or five years ago."

DANI WINTER-BATES (BURY TOMORROW): "Another thing that's helped is British bands that are gaining international success. Bring Me The Horizon are at the forefront of that. They've gone everywhere, and they're not shy about celebrating the fact they're from England. I watched them every day on Warped Tour [last year] and they were the biggest band. People here see British bands going to different countries and think, 'Well, if they're going over there then they must be good!'"

AUSTIN DICKINSON (RISE TO REMAIN): "The UK has always been so on it with heavy music, though. We started it all with Black Sabbath in the 1960s. It all started there and it's never going to end here, either."

DANI: "Right now, I think the music we three all make is probably bigger than it will ever be. I think the acceptance of abrasive and heavy music and passionate music is a lot stronger now than it's ever been, so that just helps British bands. You look at something like Radio 1, where you hear rock and metal in the daytime now…"

AUSTIN: "That's because everything else is shit, really! (*Laughs*) No, seriously, everything outside of actual bands that give a flying fuck about what they do and have *zero* sense of entitlement is pretty much cack."

SAM: "Kids are pissed off. People are wising up to everything that's going on in the world, and heavy music is an escape again. And they'd rather support real music and real bands, where they're like, 'I get you, I'm on the same level as you,' compared to these bigger pop artists that just take your money and spit you out and not give a shit. British music is becoming so much more exciting, because it's becoming like a community."

AUSTIN: "Britain really stands behind its bands more than other countries. I genuinely believe that. You see the difference that a band makes to people in this country. It's unlike anything I've seen anywhere else. Fans are more important than ever. They're the only thing that makes a scene in any town or city and keeps it alive."

DANI: "Starting out, we played [our hometown of] Southampton every other week – we were like an in-house band. That helps to gain you a fanbase, and in that respect spawns other bands that want to be on those shows, and then you have a scene."

AUSTIN: "One of our first shows ever was with Architects at an unsigned show at The Dome in Tufnell Park. We weren't even called Rise To Remain! Those are the nights that build you. Every band has to start somewhere that stinks and play it like it's Wembley, night after night. Until you get to Wembley, that is!"

Sam, Austin and Dani console each other after Jenson went back home. Sniff…

SAM: "We were desperate for shows when we were younger. I remember playing school halls and everything we possibly could. We've seen so many scenes pop up that were amazing places to play. It's essential that people keep those scenes going. We'll always play hometown shows in Brighton. It's why we chose to do our album release show there, which we streamed on YouTube, because we want people to know we're proud of our scene."

DANI: "And, you know, those local shows with local bands are always the craziest, too. Those first shows you'd play, where people would rip the room apart… you don't get that anywhere else. There's so much red tape that runs along with America – kids are told what to do and what not to do."

AUSTIN: "You can't even swear onstage in Florida! We played a show there where I said to everyone, 'On the count of three, shout your favourite four-lettered word!' and there was this guy at the back of the room with his clipboard, making sure we didn't do anything wrong, and you could just see him go, 'I fucking give up' (*laughs*)."

SAM: "I did a whole set there once and didn't swear. I made it the whole way through, even taking all the swearwords out of our songs – and then just as I was about to walk offstage at the end, I said, 'Thanks, guys, you've been *fucking* amazing.'"

DANI: "We had our sound cut at one show for swearing. I watched a police officer pop his gun out of his holster…"

With our three frontmen beginning to drift slightly off-course – and Dani in full flow telling a story of tour mates being arrested – it's time to ask these flag-bearers of British rock's revival once and for all: what really is behind the tectonic shift in rock's world power?

"I say it every day onstage," Sam Carter says. "The most important people at any show are the people who bought tickets. They have the biggest part to do with this success. It's a fact that, without them, it doesn't matter what fucking song we're playing or who the fuck any of us think we are. If it wasn't for them, the show wouldn't even be taking place."

On that we can all agree, at least.

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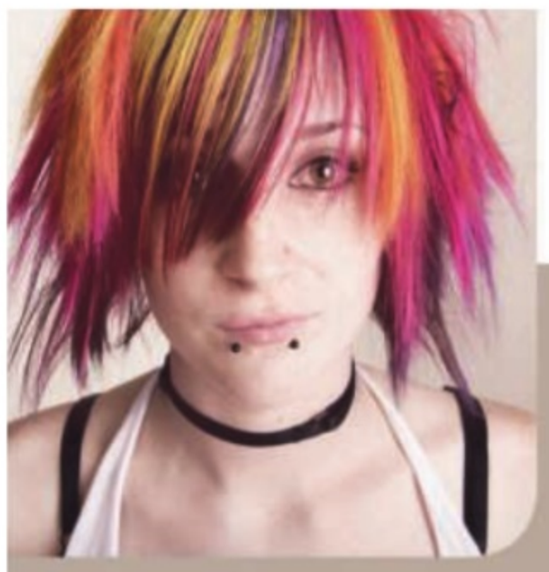

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BURY TOMORROW

The Best British Newcomer nominees are no strangers to getting their hands and, um, legs dirty. "As you can probably notice, my legs are really muddy here," says vocalist Dani Winter-Bates. "As with most shoots, the play on our name never ends well for the frontman, always being buried!"

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

The New Jersey rockers might be gone, but they're still receiving award nominations! This time for Best Single (for Fake Your Death, obviously). Gerard Way is also up for The Most Luminous Crotch award, which is a new one we've brought in this year. There's a lot of competition.

FALLING IN REVERSE

Ronnie's only gone and landed himself a nomination for Best Video with Bad Girls Club. For this shoot, New Music Ed Jennyfer went to Bad Girls Club HQ (AKA Ronnie's house). "There wasn't a bad girl in sight…" she says. "And if there was, he kept them very well hidden."

TONIGHT ALIVE

If there's one thing that gets Jenna McDougall smiling, it's being nominated for Best Album. Oh, and photoshoots with Paul Harries… "Five minutes after this, I was covering Jenna's face with black powder to simulate a dynamite explosion!" remembers Paul. "She didn't seem to mind…"

YOU ME AT SIX

"I remember thinking how weird it was that Deaf Havana were soundchecking in the same room as this shoot, yet YMAS' laughing was louder," recalls Deputy Ed George. The Surrey lads will be making more noise at the Awards, if Josh's chair-throwing performance last year is anything to go by.

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

On their first Kerrang! photoshoot, we made the Aussie pop-rockers feel at home by shooting them standing on a pile of sand. "They took their shoes and socks off and got stuck right in," remembers snapper Ian Collins. Let's hope they keep their shoes on at the Awards, eh?

Relentless KERRANG! AWARDS 2014

BEST BRITISH NEWCOMER

BURY TOMORROW

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

Relentless KERRANG! AWARDS 2011

BEST SINGLE

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

PHOTO: GETTY

BEST VIDEO

FALLING IN REVERSE

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

BEST ALBUM

TONIGHT ALIVE

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

Relentless KERRANG! AWARDS 2014

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PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

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WELCOME TO

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ABBEY ROAD

FEED THE RHINO'S LEE TOBIN TURNED HIS BACK ON THE BIG CITY FOR HIS OWN GOOD. NOW, THIS COUNTRY GENT HAS LED HIS BAND TO CREATE THEIR BEST ALBUM YET. JAMES HICKIE DONS HIS TWEEDS TO FIND OUT HOW...

PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

Four-wheel Rhino: (*from left*) Chris Kybert, Sam Colley, Oz Craggs, Lee Tobin, James Colley

"I'm fucking saturated," a flustered but chipper Lee Tobin exclaims.

Feed The Rhino's hirsute vocalist has just been out for a walk with "the kids" – Staffordshire bull terrier Thorn and French bulldog Iggy – and been caught in a spectacular downpour. "Mordor is roaring!" he jokes by way of reference to not just the claps of thunder overhead, but also the epic landscape surrounding his 400-year-old cottage, in which he's currently drying himself in front of one of its many open fires.

Wait. What? Can this *really* be the frontman of one of the UK's most incendiary live bands that we're talking to? The personification of an unquenchable anger onstage, more recently he's taken to Instagramming pictures of things like his favourite new breakfast (Starbucks' Berry Good Bircher – "insanely yummy" apparently) and is now excitedly telling K! about his Yurting holiday in Cornwall. Something must be amiss.

If it is, then that's no bad thing. Because this new, countrified Lee has also steered the Feed The Rhino herd to the creation of The Sorrow And The Sound – their most impressive offering to date. He's also happy, which, he explains, wasn't always the case.

"I needed a change," Lee responds matter-of-factly when asked why he moved to the Cotswolds last year. "It seemed that with every album we've written as a band [2010's Mr Red Eye and 2012's The Burning Sons],

> "I'LL ALWAYS HAVE THAT DEVIL INSIDE" LEE TOBIN

there's been something going on behind the scenes in our lives…" He breaks off, his voice lowering. "Or in *my* life," he adds.

A few years ago, Lee found himself in what he describes as "a really grim place – *dark as fuck* – and I couldn't get out of it". And while this wasn't a physical place, Lee couldn't help but associate his problems with where he was living.

"I was going through a lot of personal problems and felt very alone," he confesses. These weren't negative feelings he could simply channel into a song, either, but something potentially damaging to the career he'd put so much into. "I got to a point where I felt I couldn't go on with this band and be positive with everything. I just thought: I'm not doing it."

Lee's life received a radical jump-start when he met his girlfriend, Klemmie.

"I was ready to move as I wanted my mind to be clear," he explains. So that's exactly what he did. But while this 'conscious uncoupling', as Gwyneth Paltrow might describe Lee's parting with big-city life, has helped him to "be free of the things that have been holding me back and knocking me down", there were four people who were less sure about the move: his bandmates.

"It was hard, because we've been close friends for a long time," Lee admits. "It added a lot of pressure because James [Colley, guitarist] and Chris [Kybert, drums] were like, 'What are you doing? What's going to happen with the band?'"

But, despite their doubts, Lee was sure that this change would only be a good thing. And so the five-piece – completed by guitarist Sam Colley and bassist Oz Craggs – reconvened at the latter's Hidden Track Studios in Folkestone where, as a result of "having time apart to come up with ideas and bring more to the table", Lee's positive prediction came true.

"This album *flowed*," he beams. "From the start to the finish, it was writing itself. I'm not saying there was anything contrived before on our albums, because there wasn't. It's just that when you're in a good place, it's easier to express yourself."

A big part of that expression was being true to the identity the band has fought hard to maintain since forming in 2010.

"We're not ashamed of anything – we're proud of who we are. That's what this album is a representation of," he explains.

They're more than aware of what they're not, too, and at peace with their limitations. "Alright, we're not headlining Brixton, we're not touring with Foo Fighters or supporting Metallica, but I tell you what, what we've done from start to finish, today, is way beyond our expectations," Lee smiles. "This album is a celebration."

That's not to say The Sorrow And The Sound's harmonious conception has led to an album that shies away from tough topics, though. Just look at the title.

"Every track has so many memories for me," Lee explains in a tone that suggests that not all of these recollections are cheerful. One track that particularly resonates with him is Black Horse, its opening lyric ('*Have you seen the tears of the black horse?*') harking back to the more difficult days of his past.

"Even though I had friends around me, I couldn't express to them how I was feeling," he recalls. "That song is about a person being upset, but you can't see it physically."

It's hard not to also interpret Black Horse, with its underlying message about "coming to life", or the recently released Give Up ("about struggling and ripping off the chains") as drawing inspiration from Lee's dramatic uprooting, but we have to ask: doesn't he worry that rural domesticity might rob this Rhino of his wilder instincts?

His answer comes so fast, you sense it's a question he's ready to offer a riposte.

"I'll always have that Devil inside me," he laughs. "But I control *him* now. He doesn't control me."

So, there we have it. The dramatic arrival of Lee Tobin: cottage owner and master of his own destiny.

"I don't really know what contented feels like," he says with the caution of a man who doesn't want to jinx his own good fortune. "But if it feels like anything, I'm very close to it now," he adds. And while Lee is vocal about wanting to get married and have "a bigger house with more dogs" in his life outside of the band, where does he want Feed The Rhino to go next?

"I want to go *everywhere*," he answers passionately.

Let the stampede begin.

THE SORROW AND THE SOUND IS OUT ON JUNE 16 THROUGH SIEGE OF AMIDA / CENTURY MEDIA. THEY PLAY SLAM DUNK AND DOWNLOAD. SEE THE GIG GUIDE

INNER SHITTY LIFE

FIVE THINGS LEE WON'T MISS ABOUT THE BIG SMOKE…

RUBBISH BEER

"Poor-quality beer is a crime. I'm all about the fine ales! It's not that *all* pubs in the city have shit beer, but the places we can afford to drink in do."

PUKE-FILLED DOORWAYS

"I used to hate it when I was driving home in a cab at 1am, and I'd go past a nightclub and see people puking their guts up. Absolutely disgusting!"

TRAFFIC

"Who *does* like traffic, though, really? It's always been the stuff of nightmares for me."

HASSLE IN THE STREET

"I personally haven't had any bad experiences; I've just seen a lot of people getting trouble from young people in the street. There are some seriously abusive kids out there and I certainly won't miss them."

POLLUTION

"I mean noise pollution *and* the dirty, smog kind. It's too bloody noisy and there's pestilence everywhere. Okay, maybe that's a bit dramatic…"

ROOTS BRITISH ROOTS

BENJI WEBBE HAS CONTINUALLY REINVENTED THE SOUND OF BRITISH ROCK IN A 20-YEAR CAREER. HERE, THE SKINDRED FRONTMAN LOOKS BACK ON A LIFE SPENT BREAKING BOUNDARIES

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE **PHOTO:** DAVE WILLIS

There are three certainties in life: death, taxes and Benji Webbe. Skindred's mischief-maker-in-chief has been a talismanic figure in the UK rock scene for over two decades now, and in that time he's seen everything.

"Definitely a lot of bands have come and gone while I've been doing this!" laughs the singer from behind a hurricane of dreadlocks. "But I've just always been myself. Scenes die; if people stick to being who they really are, though, then I believe rock'n'roll can live forever. Besides, I'd look shit with an emo fringe anyway!"

It's for precisely that reason that Benji is such a pivotal character in British rock. From his early days in Dub War through to the infamous party-starting of Skindred – who, for 15 years, have stomped all over every preconceived idea of genre with their truly unique 'ragga metal' – he's dished out his colossal choruses and hyperactive, jacked-up verses in tireless, trendless fashion.

"Without wishing to blow my own trumpet, I do see myself as a bit of an ambassador for the UK," he beams. "When [Korn's] Jonathan Davis was ill at Download in 2006, there were six guys filling in for him. Corey from Slipknot, M. Shadows from Avenged… and I was the only British guy there!"

Naturally, then, when K! was looking for someone to give us their take on the recent history of rock on our fair isle, Benji was the obvious choice. A quick rummage through his closet later, and we were presented with a stack of memorabilia chronicling The Dirty Dred's journey from smalltown Newport to festival main stages. So, step right this way for a unique account of a life lived through the kaleidoscope of Great British rock…

SKINDRED ARE BORN (1999)

"These pictures were taken when we were just forming Skindred back in Newport. Dan [Pugsley, Bassist] was only 18 when I met him and we started the band together with the guitarist and drummer who were in Dub War. Those guys from Dub War were in Skindred for two years – we recorded our first album with them – but then we got dropped by our label and they didn't want to do it any more. Shortly after this photo was taken, we were watching a band in Exeter and there was this kid on the drums who was great. That kid would go on to be our drummer, Arya [Goggin]."

K! INTRODUCING PAGE (2002)

"Around this time, a lot of the nu-metal stuff was going on; Limp Bizkit from the States and bands like Pitchshifter and One Minute Silence in the UK. Even though they were essentially our peers, because we were bringing that dancehall element into things, we never quite fitted in. We could play with Disturbed one night and Slayer the next. We were good friends with a lot of those British bands, and still are to this day."

HEADING TO AMERICA WITH KERRANG! (2005)

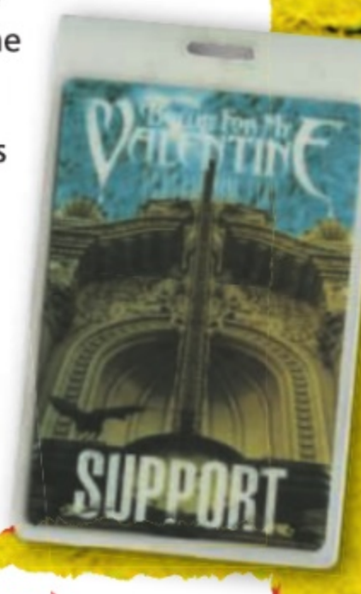
"This picture is from the first time Skindred went to America. It was taken on Bourbon Street in New Orleans about three days before Hurricane Katrina hit. It's basically one of those silly end-of-the-pier-style photo sessions where we put on all these old-time clothes, which was wicked fun. We were touring [debut album] Babylon out there at the time, and got a really big push. We even did [famous talk show] Late Night With Conan O'Brien! I don't care what anyone says: you can be the best band in the world, but if you don't have the right team around you you'll just end up treading water."

SOULFLY TOUR PASS (2006)

"Me and Max [Cavalera, Soulfly] were friends for a while, I knew him when he left Sepultura. I remember him saying he was a fan of Skindred and we all dug what Soulfly were about. They had that Brazilian element in their music, which I think was similar to what we were trying to do but from a different angle. We did a show with them at the Astoria and I was supposed to get up and do a song called Prejudice alongside them at the end of the night. Unfortunately, we had to go early to get to France for a gig the next day and had left the venue by the time he was calling for me to go up onstage with them! Oops!"

UNITING WITH BULLET (2007)

"This tour was when I realised my band was as strong live as everything else that was being hyped up around the UK scene at that time. Bullet For My Valentine had a crowd much younger than ours then, and I think these shows brought those fans to our band. I've known the boys in BFMV since they were asking me for autographs in Wales, and I actually ended up writing a couple of songs on [2008's] Scream Aim Fire with them. It was awesome to have that Welsh connection on those shows. The Welsh scene has always been strong, and it was great to bring that vibe to arenas."



VISIT TO RUSSIA (2011)

"The two shows we played in Russia on this tour were jam-packed. It meant a lot, because we played the same venue in Moscow as Dub War years before, and we were labelled on the flyer as 'The anti-Nazi band'. Of course, loads of neo-Nazis came down and were throwing stuff at us and singing right-wing songs between our tunes! We said to each other, 'We can't let them know that they're affecting us at all,' and played the whole gig like any other. To go back to the same place as Skindred all that time later and have an amazing show felt incredible."

THE JÄGERMEISTER TOUR (2012)

"This was really cool, because Therapy? are a band who we once supported as Dub War at TJs in Newport. I remember that was a show where we really started to get popular and noticed in our local scene. Fast-forward about 15 years, and they were supporting us on this Jägermeister Tour. Doing those big academy-sized venues on that run was brilliant for us – places like Brixton, where Joe Cocker and The Clash played."

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL DEBUT (2013)

"In life, there are ways in which you see yourself and your art, and I believe that Skindred are the 'alternative' alternative band. We got the chance to show that at Reading Festival on the Main Stage last year. It wasn't so much our crowd, and we weren't sure how we were going to go down. I remember before I walked on to the stage thinking, 'I hope there are people in this field to see us!' Going out in front of all those people and feeling the unity in the audience that day is what I want my band to be about. It was a real career highlight."

SKINDRED PLAY DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL THIS JUNE. SEE THE GIG GUIDE

"Sorry, we only accept a driving licence or passport as proof of ID…"

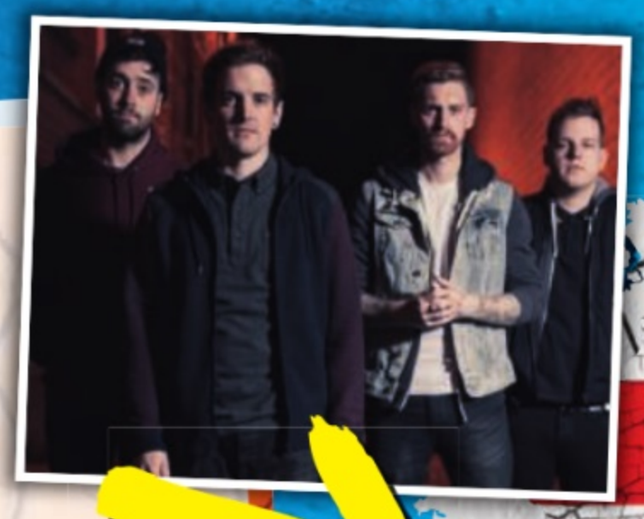
THE BATTLE OF

ROCK IN BRITAIN TRANSCENDS BORDERS. BUT, JUST FOR FUN, WE ASKED SOME OF THE HOTTEST NAMES AROUND TO REPRESENT OUR FOUR CORNERS (AND THE ROI) AND PROVE WHY THEIR HOME NATION RULES THEM ALL!

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

NORTHERN IRELAND & THE ROI

IN ST PATRICK'S CORNER... **ONLY RIVALS**



STEPHEN ARKINS (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It's a very exciting time to be a band in Northern Ireland and the Republic right now. There's a very tight scene, but there are no genre divisions within that. Everyone loves that diversity. There's no friction between pop-punk and hardcore and metal fans. If one band makes it, it's almost a victory for everyone, because there's no real rivalry going on. Everyone's there for each other.

"Obviously we gave the world U2 and Thin Lizzy, but the current rock resurgence is something that's been missing for a long time, and bands like Wounds, Red Enemy and Holy Ghost Holy Grail are leading the charge. We maybe don't have as many great venues as we once did, but Fibbers in Dublin is still one of the best anywhere. It's such an absolute dive. It smells like piss constantly, but it's got a great sound, a great stage and it's got great energy. It's *real*, and the Limelight in Belfast is great for similar reasons. A lot of bands from other countries coming over to Ireland will say that Irish fans are definitely the craziest. It's easy to say that, but we really *do* have the craziest fans, though at the same time everyone looks out for each other, which matters.

"We've got some great cities over here, Dublin having the best vibe, but you're never going to find a nicer place than the Irish countryside on a sunny day. We've contributed to world culture, too. For one, we gave you Guinness, and you're welcome, world!"

ONLY RIVALS TOUR THE UK THIS MONTH AND IN NOVEMBER

WALES

IN ST DAVID'S CORNER... **NECK DEEP**

BEN BARLOW (*VOCALS*): "I think what drives most Welsh bands is that, as a country, we've always had an underdog factor about us, so people don't take us seriously. We're motivated to do better than anyone expects us to, shutting them up by proving we *do* make great music. Obviously we've had the Manic Street Preachers and Stereophonics out there representing us, and there have been a lot of Welsh bands doing big things in recent years – The Blackout, Funeral For A Friend, Kids In Glass Houses. To see a band get to Bullet For My Valentine's level is great, and it's an honour to be able to say we're from the same place.

"We have a few great venues, like Clwb Ifor Bach in Cardiff and Wrexham Central Station, and the Welsh fans really get behind the bands they love. Whenever we play anywhere in Wales, we feel like we're playing at home, because of the support they give, and they have the distinction of being funnier than fans from anywhere else! Every time I talk to a fan, they crack me up! There's a lot of pride, too. Any time you go to a festival, you'll see a Welsh flag flying, which again stems from people counting us out. We have to make some noise and say, 'Yeah, we're fucking here!'

"Welsh football is doing better than ever right now with Cardiff and Swansea in the Premiership this past season, and Gareth Bale at Real Madrid. We've also got Hannibal Lecter himself, Anthony Hopkins, and Catherine Zeta-Jones. I should also point out that the co-inventor of the Internet [Donald Davies] is from Wales! Wales may be small, but we're mighty!"

"WALES HAS AN UNDERDOG FACTOR!"

NECK DEEP PLAY SLAM DUNK AND READING & LEEDS

BRITAIN

BRITAIN ROCKS!

SCOTLAND

IN ST ANDREW'S CORNER...

YASHIN

KEVIN MILES (*VOCALS*): "When you're a band from Scotland, the people really get behind you, and I think one of the reasons we got nominated for a Relentless Kerrang! Award a couple of years ago was having so much support from back home. Honestly, even on something like The X Factor, when you get someone from Scotland, they *always* do really well – even if they're fucking rubbish! It's a national pride thing.

"Obviously we have bands actually worth supporting – there's Biffy Clyro, but also Twin Atlantic, Frightened Rabbit, and our mates in Bleed From Within. Being a band in Glasgow is a privilege, because you'll have people from all over the world telling you it's their favourite place. We have the Barrowlands, which is one of the best venues *anywhere*. The last time I was there, watching Papa Roach, Jacoby [Shaddix, vocals] sincerely said it was the best in the world. When you get 2,000 Scottish people in there, it comes alive!

"PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD LOVE SCOTLAND!"

"Personally, I find Edinburgh too touristy, but Aberdeen and Dundee are great cities, and the Scottish scenery is just breathtaking. We're famous for haggis, and I swear, if you describe it you'll turn the stomach of most people, but serve it to them and tell them it's sausage and nine out of 10 will love it! Then there's the whisky, but that's actually been barred from our rider since we were at a festival and Paul [Travers, guitar] decided to drink all the whisky we'd been supplied, started a fight with our bass player [Andrew McShane], ended up getting pushed through a wall into Architects' dressing room, and got us all banned from the site!

"I've watched a million documentaries on the Loch Ness Monster, and I still can't make my mind up, but we've got more than enough going for us to worry about her being real or not!"

YASHIN'S NEW ALBUM, THE RENEGADES, IS DUE SEPTEMBER VIA TRANSCEND MUSIC. THEY PLAY SONISPHERE IN JULY

ENGLAND

IN ST GEORGE'S CORNER...

THE DEFILED

STITCH D (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "There's no point even trying to argue the fact that England was and probably always will be the epicenter of rock and metal. Let me tell you why: The Stones, Zeppelin, Sabbath, Sex Pistols, The Beatles, David Bowie, The Clash, Iron Maiden, The Who, Judas Priest... do I need to go on? Okay, those are all pretty old, so what do we have now? Bring Me The Horizon, You Me At Six, Lower Than Atlantis, While She Sleeps, The Prodigy, Architects, Muse, Asking Alexandria...

"Then we have our festivals – Download, Sonisphere, Reading & Leeds – and not to mention every great amp manufacturer *ever* is from England. We wouldn't have rock'n'roll without Jim Marshall and Orange making the amps that brought all these bands to life! It also helps that we have great venues. We have the Camden Underworld, Nottingham Rock City, and, of course, Brixton Academy, and I think the goal of every touring band is to play there over and above everywhere else. Once there, then you get to set your sights on Wembley. We also have great fans in England. The love they give you is so flattering, and we have really supportive scenes, too, with bands looking out for each other as they gain ground.

"It's not just about the music, though. Spending as much time in America as I do, I find what I most miss is the English sense of humour. Everyone likes a bit of a joke and a bit of a swear, and in the States the same thing is considered rude! We've got – and had – so many great actors, and we've made some great contributions to cinema. Then we have what's regarded as the best football league in the world, even if there's not a hell of a lot of English people in it, and our national team is a bit shit. I suppose we have to own up to giving the world the Spice Girls, but I think, as you can see, we've contributed enough good stuff that we can be forgiven for that!"

THE DEFILED PLAY SONISPHERE THIS JULY AND ALT-FEST IN AUGUST

WE'RE GOING TO WAAAAAARGH!

X-STATIC TO BE BACK

WIN TICKETS TO KERRANG!/ MOUTAIN DEW'S SUPER-EXCLUSIVE DAYS OF FUTURE PAST SCREENING!

There's only one thing better than a superhero movie, and that's a *mash-up* superhero movie. Which is what's happening when the cast of the original X-Men trilogy and the recent prequel, X-Men: First Class, team up for the epic X-Men: Days Of Future Past, out on May 22.

But it's sparked a Mountain Dew-fuelled in-office debate about which 'age' of X-Men rules all – past or future? We love Hugh Jackman's blade-wielding Wolverine (from both 'ages', but shhh), Patrick Stewart's telepathic Professor X, and Ian McKellen's master of magnetism, Magneto.

But then there's the 'past', Magneto (this version played by Michael Fassbender) and Professor X (James MacAvoy) as well as Jennifer Lawrence's shape-shifting Mystique. Plus newbies in the shape of teleportation queen Blink (Fan Bingbing) and Bishop (Omar Sy), a futuristic soldier who has the power to absorb kinetic energy. They may not have as much experience on their side but they're just as awesome…

Either way, X-Men: Days Of Future Past is set to be the action movie of the year! And to celebrate its release, we've teamed up with Mountain Dew and Fox for another Green Screen spectacular, in the form of a screening of X-Men: Days Of Future Past at the Odeon in Covent Garden on May 21.

If you're lucky enough to win tickets to this exclusive Green Screen showing, expect limited-edition giveaways, interactive experiences, plus exclusive Mountain Dew merchandise. To be in with a chance of winning, just head to @KerrangMagazine on Twitter and follow the instructions. Good luck!

SUPERHERO SWAG!

WANNA WIN SOME X-TREMELY K!OOL PRIZES THANKS TO MOUNTAIN DEW?

Head over to our Twitter page (@KerrangMagazine) each day from May 14 for the chance to win X-Men DVD box sets, Green Screen event pre-screening tickets of X-Men: Days Of Future Past, Mountain Dew merchandise and other cool prizes. All you need to do, at 3pm each day (yes, every day!), is head over there, answer the daily quiz question – not forgetting to use the hashtag #DewGreenScreen – and wait until 6pm, when we unveil the winners via Twitter, to see if you've been lucky! For full terms and conditions see tinyurl.com/kerrangtandcs.

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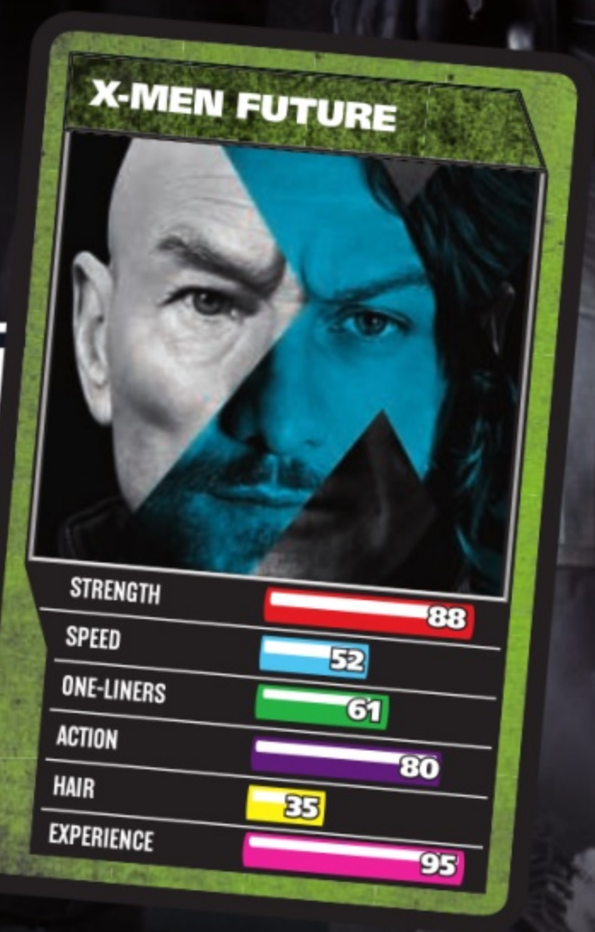

X-MEN
DAYS OF FUTURE PAST
IN CINEMAS MAY

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PUN-K! IN DRUBLIC!

GROEZROCK 2014

KKKKK = CLASSIC **KKKK** = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD **KK** = AVERAGE **K** = POOR

Adam Lazzara was very excited indeed for the festival raffle

MEERHOUT, BELGIUM.
02.05.14 – 03.05.14

BRITS, LEGENDS AND FIRST-TIMERS HIT THE EURO PUNK MEGA-FEST

WORDS: JESSICA BRIDGEMAN **PHOTOS:** IAN COLLINS

FRIDAY

WHAT HAPPENS when you put 40,000 punks in a field with four stages, 80 incredible bands and (roughly) a gazillion pints of Belgian beer? One word: Groezrock. Pitched up in the quaint village of Meerhout, the two-day festival has become a Mecca for all that's great about punk and hardcore. Headlined by legends NOFX and The Offspring – both playing their 20-year-old breakthrough albums in full – the 48 hours of carnage is rounded out by young pups, legends, and a few of our favourite Brits, too.

However, it's Toronto's **PUP** (**KKK**) who kick off proceedings on the barrier-free Etnies Stage, easing in punters with their promising blend of raw geek-rock. Next up, punk rock vets **BAYSIDE** (**KKKKK**) prove that hard work can pay off by tearing up the Impericon Stage. Infectious songs Pigsty and Stuttering, from their recent 4K-rated Cult album, have punters fist-pumping until their arms turn blue. It's a feat continued by **THE WONDER YEARS** (**KKK**) back at the Etnies Stage. But with the Pennsylvania pop-punkers dodging stage-divers and sound problems, they're left to fire through a 40-minute set with minimal ceremony. Meanwhile, **THE MENZINGERS** (**KKK**) shine as the genre's latest success story on the Main Stage. The wide-eyed Yank punks sound flawless, but they're missing the intense intimacy they'd usually thrive on.

"This seems like a new crowd," declares **MADBALL** (**KK**) frontman Freddy Cricien back at the Impericon Stage. "I want to get to know you." The ballsy New Yorkers successfully beat the hard into hardcore, but make few new friends today. Meanwhile, **ALKALINE TRIO** (**KKKK**) serenade Main Stage fans with the delights of Stupid Kid and Private Eye, getting pipped in the nostalgia stakes only by **TAKING BACK SUNDAY** (**KKK**). It's far wilder than you'd think from emo, with the MakeDamnSure finale leaving a livewire Adam Lazzara swinging upside down from the rigging.

Across the field, **BRAND NEW**'s (**KKKKK**) good spirits are enough to pleasantly surprise long-serving fans, with the power of Sowing Season and Seventy Times 7 showing the band on top form. With members from Rival Schools and Deftones, it's little wonder the Impericon Stage is equally buzzing for **QUICKSAND** (**KKK**), who battle some sound issues with sweet and sludgy post-hardcore.

But all eyes are on **NOFX** (**KKKK**) to be the most mischievous punks of the day. Just by playing 1994's Punk In Drublic in full (but not in order), the California clowns are more offensive, more controversial and even more fun than usual. Even if they are better at jokes than they are at playing for more than two minutes at a time.

Proof: Groezrock is dog-shit free

Missing out on the last crepe hit Quicksand hard

5 MINUTES WITH... ANTHONY RANERI

(BAYSIDE, *VOCALS/GUITAR*)

WELL, WE HAD A LOT OF FUN DURING THE SHOW. DID YOU?

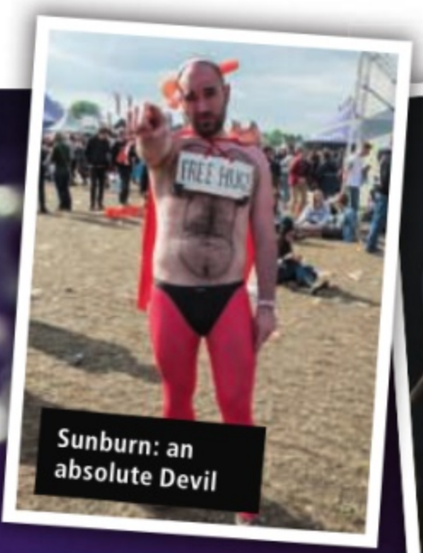
"Yeah! People kept saying, 'When you get to Groezrock, it's going to be great,' because everybody has a good show and so many people watch every band. We thought, 'We've only played Belgium once and we're not very popular in that part of the world,' but when we walked onstage there were 5,000 people there. I was really happy with how we played. When we're doing stuff like this, I'm just looking at everybody's faces and trying to make them smile."

HOW DOES GROEZROCK COMPARE WITH OTHER FESTIVALS?

"It's seriously the best. It's the most well-run festival we've done, for sure. Obviously the line-up goes without saying – it's unreal. You can tell that the people who book this have been working on it all year; this was not thrown together by any means. The line-up is so solid. I love these shows where there's a bunch of hardcore bands that the same kind of people like and there's a bunch of punk bands that people like, so every fan here probably has five to 10 bands that they want to see."

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE FOR GROEZROCK FIRST-TIMERS?

"Probably to plan your day well, study the schedule and make a list. If you don't know where you're going and when you're going there, you're going to miss something great. Definitely plan ahead."



Sunburn: an absolute Devil

PUP: the dog's bollocks

Matt Skiba didn't know when to say when with the Botox

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

DHIJS, AMSTERDAM
"Alkaline Trio were pretty good. Great, actually. But we mainly came to see New Found Glory."

NULA, AMSTERDAM
"I love Groezrock. I've been coming for six years! I'm very curious about Falling In Reverse."

SOFIE, GHENT
"I love the atmosphere at Groezrock. We have two big festivals here, but Groezrock is everything from metal, to punk, to hardcore, so you see all kinds of people."

MAGALY, BRUSSELS
"I've been coming here since 1999. It was my first festival, and I try to come every year. I love the atmosphere and I love the people! It's one of the better festivals in Europe regarding the line-up."

GLEN, BRUSSELS
"NOFX were great. I like the atmosphere here – great bands and nice people."

Freddy Krueger called, NOFX – he wants his jumper back

Belgian police are still hunting the notorious mic-thief of Meerhout

Bayside's Austin Carlile disguise was uncanny

Madball's skipping rope: shit

We didn't realise Clutch were pla… oh, it's The Wonder Years

Brand New lost everything but their pyjamas en route

Some people go a long way for a hug

MORE GROEZROCK MADNESS THIS WAY!

GROEZROCK 2014

Jordan from New Found Glory struggled to lift Bury Tomorrow's picture box

One punter regretted opting for the cheap seats

Six-foot heels: pretty handy

Dani's bogey was just too impressive not to show off

5 MINUTES WITH... DANI WINTER-BATES

(BURY TOMORROW, *VOCALS*)

HELLO, DANI. HOW'S GROEZROCK BEEN FOR YOU LOT?

"It's been great and very, very unexpected. There were about three people in front of the barrier and then, as we walked out, there were about 1,500 people. We've never played here before, so it was the unknown, but it was amazing."

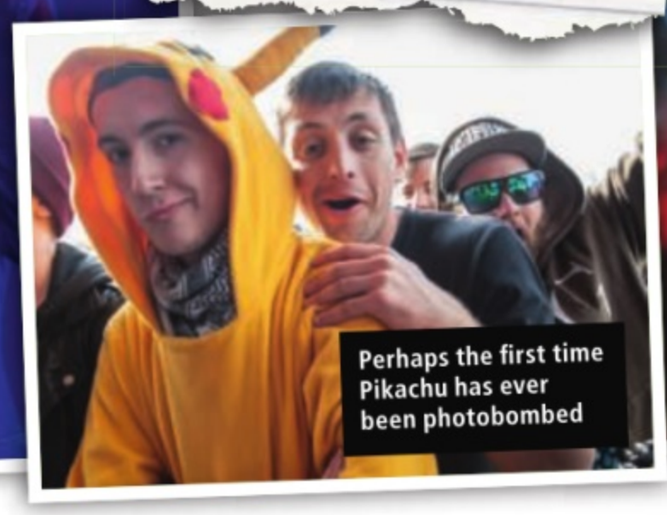
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A BRITISH BAND PLAYING GROEZROCK?

"It's an amazing feeling and they never seem to have a lot of British bands. It's great to be representing England, and to be representing metal as well. There was a definite feeling onstage today that we're alongside The Ghost Inside, The Devil Wears Prada and I Killed The Prom Queen, but it was cool to play on a stage with no other metal – it was a good feeling. Blitz Kids played right before us and they're doing really great things over in England, so it's cool to see them over here as well."

AND YOU READ OUT THE FOOTBALL SCORES BEFORE YOUR SET...

"Our drum tech is incredibly British. The last time we were in Poland, it was one of our birthdays, and they were running around singing football chants. We like to bring the British element into our live set and make everyone feel at home."

Boris Johnson's karaoke kicked off at Groezrock



Perhaps the first time Pikachu has ever been photobombed

SATURDAY

WITH THE sun blazing down on the site, it's the turn of **DOOMRIDERS** (KKKK) to ignite day two of Groezrock with whirling riffs and roaring vocals courtesy of Converge's Nate Newton. Brash but not quite loud enough, the Boston metallers have us wishing we could crank up the Impericon Stage's volume button for full force. Across the field, **BLITZ KIDS** (KKKK) are navigating their way around the tiny Macbeth Stage. Run For Cover and Sold My Soul start mini mosh pits, and Joe James and his merry, cheeky men leave with a bit more of Belgium in their pockets than when they started. But it's California's **TOUCHÉ AMORÉ** (KKKKK) who're causing maximum chaos. With singer Jeremy Bolm spitting out the lyrics to Just Exist, they're a hysteria-factory few can beat.

Then it's back to watch the Brits rule, as Southampton's **BURY TOMORROW** (KKKK) give Belgian metallers a melodic-but-meaty soundtrack to mosh around the sound desk to. Oh, and Dani Winter-Bates reads out the football scores. But when they get down to business, it's a firm booting that ends Bury Tomorrow 1 – Belgium 0.

As the sun starts to lower, **THE GHOST INSIDE** (KKK) prove downright destructive, as they pound out more aggressive metalcore on the bigger Impericon Stage. Genre bros **THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA** (KKK) run a similar ship, making their Groezrock debut with all the brutality Belgium could've hoped for. And for every breakdown they bring to the table, **NEW FOUND GLORY** (KKKK) match in glorious choruses. With Groezrock on guest vocals, they bounce through Dressed To Kill and My Friends Over You like the world's biggest pop-punk choir.

Playing 1994's Smash in full, Saturday headliners **THE OFFSPRING** (KKKKK) are on the kind of form they enjoyed 20 years ago. Come Out And Play and Self Esteem are epic punk anthems, and tonight they're simply incredible. With 40,000 people in full voice to Dexter Holland's gloriously nasal attempts at singing, it's a fine end to one of the best festivals of the summer.

FALLING IN REVERSE

KKKK

REVIEWS

SORTING THE K!LLER FROM THE FILLER

KKKKK = CLASSIC KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD KK = AVERAGE K = POOR

KILLER BE KILLED

KILLER BE KILLED
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKKK

NEW METAL SUPERGROUP SHOOTS TO KILL. BULL'S-EYE!

THERE'S NO doubting the breeding of the four gents comprising Killer Be Killed. It's an impressive line-up all right, but when you bring different pedigrees together, you tend to end up with a mutt. This one might have odd ears and a misshapen muzzle, but it's still a fine beast. Part vicious junkyard killer and part refined show dog, Killer Be Killed goes for the throat then nuzzles your ear as it gently laps up the blood.

Started by The Dillinger Escape Plan frontman Greg Puciato and Soulfly/former Sepultura legend Max Cavalera, Killer Be Killed expanded in both size and scope as first Dave Elitch – one-time drummer with The Mars Volta – and finally Mastodon bassist Troy Sanders joined the fold. Greg's original vision was for a "screamy, thrashy crossover record" in the vein of Max's short-lived '90s project, Nailbomb. The three songs that survive from the pair's original demos – Face Down, Fire To Your Flag and I.E.D. – are also the most simplistic and explosive. Face Down has a vicious hardcore bark, Fire To Your Flag is a raw and quivering punk-metal blast and I.E.D. glowers beneath a sort of thrash-era apocalyptic anxiety. These early efforts also feature dislocated melodies and the odd more progressive sweep, but once you know the chronology of the songwriting, you can almost see the evolution taking place as more and varied elements are brought in.

Of the members' regular or former bands, the most prominent combination is undoubtedly Mastofly (with very little in the way of The Mars Escape Plan to be found), and there are plenty of crunching, elasticated groove-metal riffs circled with deft melodies and dappled with light and shade. The mythology-laced trip of Twelve Labors is probably the most purely Mastodon moment, but then there are complete departures like the slow, doom-laden Dust Into Darkness, which owes more to Black Sabbath as filtered through Soundgarden.

The most intriguing aspect of this debut is the blending of the vocals, with the three outfield players sharing singing duties between them. Greg alternates between his throat-shredding screams and Mike Patton-esque cleans. Max brings his unmistakeable guttural bark and Troy brings a deep, dark undercurrent, sounding more like Killing Joke's Jaz Coleman when isolated from his Mastodon bandmates. It's a combination that works far better than it should. And that's why KBK are the mutt's nuts.

DOWNLOAD: I.E.D., Twelve Labors.
FOR FANS OF: Soulfly, Mastodon.

PAUL TRAVERS

THE INSIDER
TALES FROM THE STUDIO...

TROY SANDERS
(BASS/VOCALS)

HELLO, SIR. HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THIS SUPERGROUP BUSINESS?
"Two and a half years ago Mastodon were on tour with The Dillinger Escape Plan. Greg [Puciato] was telling me about this project he was trying to get off the ground. He said they were looking for a bass player who could also do vocals and I was like, 'Hey, that's what *I* do!' I have mad respect for everything Max [Cavalera] has ever done, so I was on board from the get-go."

HOW WERE THE SESSIONS?
"The word for me is 'freeing'. There was no pressure. I think Max is used to being the main man and Greg does a hundred per cent of the [lead] vocals with Dillinger, so I sort of led the way. I said, 'Whoever's got an idea for any part, go in and take a stab at it and if we all like it, it goes in.'"

WILL WE GET TO SEE KILLER BE KILLED ON TOUR?
"We all have our main gigs elsewhere, but there was a degree of success finding seven days to jam together back in January 2013. Flash forward eight months later and we found 21 days to go in and record the album. I would love to take this further to play a show, but we'll just have to wait and see."

ROB ZOMBIE
THE ZOMBIE HORROR PICTURE SHOW
(ZODIAC SWAN/T-BOY/UNIVERSAL MUSIC)

KKKK

THE HELLBILLY RELEASES HIS FIRST GIG FILM: MONSTAH, MONSTAH, MONSTAH!

WHAT'S THE most shocking thing about Rob Zombie? Is it that he's directed an episode of CSI: Miami? Nope, it's the fact that, on a CV boasting five albums of smouldering schlock rock and stints behind the camera of several horror movies, he's *never made a live concert film*. That's especially surprising considering that Rob's musical career is largely defined by the carnival of pantomime grotesque that is his live show. So, with a highly anticipated Download slot coming this summer, this provides a vivid idea of the thrills to expect. The most surprising thing about this film of Rob Zombie, rockstar, directed by Rob Zombie, director, is how conventional it is – well, as much as it can be with a set list boasting a song called Ging Gang Gong De Do Gong De Laga Raga. Shot across two nights in Texas, the footage flits between the crisply modern and the faux-archival and, as a result, accurately reflects the mishmash of old and new contained within the songs. Go on – unleash the Superbeast!

JAMES HICKIE

GOODTIME BOYS
RAIN
(BRIDGE NINE)

KK

GLOOMY EMO DRIZZLE WITH A HIGH CHANCE OF FILLER

GRAB YOUR brolly and your mackintosh: we're in for a bloody miserable downpour. Unfortunately, the title of Goodtime Boys' debut full-length is pretty indicative of the spell of wet emo punk coming in. With no clear standouts, tracks on Rain blur into atmospheric filler that would make the perfect soundtrack for moping in the backseat, staring out onto a pissing wet motorway. There are bursts of those bittersweet climatic breakdowns that some bands of their diary-keeping ilk do oh-so-well, but they're the only silver lining on a generally dreary cloud. The last thing these boys sound like they're having is a good time. As for us? We're just a bit sad. And wet.

DOWNLOAD: Moral Decay
FOR FANS OF: Touché Amoré, Brand New, La Dispute.

HANNAH EWENS

AGALLOCH
THE SERPENT & THE SPHERE
(EISENWALD TONSCHMIEDE)

KKKK

WANT AN INSTANT HIT? GO PROVOKE A KANGAROO...

BLACK METAL has increasingly been smudged into various shades of grey since its mid-'90s heyday. Agalloch hail from Portland, Oregon, rather than some snow-swept Scandinavian tundra, but they've done more than most to stretch that simple charcoal aggression into vast new vistas of sound. The Serpent & The Sphere – their fifth album – is not an easy record to get into. It starts with a 10-minute trek across a mental and musical void and refuses to be hurried, unfurling like a slow, deathly shadow. The abrasive rasp is still there, though, wrapped in extended ambient passages. When Agalloch's majesty comes, the slow unfolding is more than worth the wait.

DOWNLOAD: The Astral Dialogue, Celestial Effigy.
FOR FANS OF: Alcest, Wolves In The Throne Room.

PAUL TRAVERS

SYLAR
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
(RAZOR & TIE)

KKK

NY ELECTRO-METALLERS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES

SYLAR FRONTMAN Jayden Panesso earns a living selling merch for metalcore meatheads Emmure. To Whom It May Concern might as well be his written notice, as it's hard to imagine he'll be keeping the day job for long, judging by what he does when he's moonlighting in Sylar. Aiming high, they take the Linkin Park template and update it for 21st-century New York. The slick hooks, occasional rapping and electronic undercurrent remain, but get roughed up by pit-ready breakdowns and harsh vocals. There's little on this debut that you haven't heard before, but Sylar's slick delivery points to big things ahead. Jayden might have to focus on his own merch soon.

DOWNLOAD: Prescription Meditation.
FOR FANS OF: Linkin Park, Crossfaith, Bring Me The Horizon.

OLLY THOMAS

KLASSIC ALBUM!
A ROCK GEM FROM THE K! VAULTS...

TWISTED SISTER
STAY HUNGRY
(ATLANTIC)

MUMMY, I'M SCARED...
Don't cry. The scary man on the cover there is just Twisted Sister frontman Dee Snider. And he'll only dismember you and gnaw the flesh from your still-twitching femur if you tell him to turn the music down, or thwart his desire to rock.

BUT WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE THAT?
Because Twisted Sister were all about individuality, nonconformity and dressing like the winner of the Least Convincing Cosplayer Award at a Sex And The City convention. Oh, and gigantic sing-along pop-metal anthems like I Wanna Rock and We're Not Gonna Take It.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY WERE THEY NOT GONNA TAKE?
Any lip from you, buster. Or the moral majority telling them what to do. Which is ironic, because Twisted Sister inspired a bunch of politicians' wives to form the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC), who wanted to see music releases rated in a similar way to films. Dee handed them their arses when he eloquently defended free speech at a U.S. Senate hearing.

GOOD MAN. SO WHERE CAN I GET A TASTE OF THIS?
At this year's Download! It's the album's 30th birthday and, according to their Facebook page, they might well be playing it in full!

COMING SOON!
Morbid Angel, NOFX, blink-182 and more!

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

THE KERRANG! STEREO

THE 10 NEW ROCK TRACKS MELTING OUR EARS!

1 NEVER LOSE YOUR FLAMES ISSUES
They're so hot right now…

2 CLOUDKICKER TRASH TALK
Sacramento hardcore noise implosion, yo!

3 IN BETWEEN BEARTOOTH
"Proudly boasting a hook so sharp you can get a papercut from the CD!"
SAM COARE, FEATURES EDITOR

4 UNTIL IT'S GONE LINKIN PARK
The big, massive guitars are back! Nice one, LP blokes.

5 THE TASTE OF DYING CROWBAR
A nice peaceful ditty from Crowbar. Only joking.

6 SHE LOOKS SO PERFECT 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
"She looks perfect and this sounds perfect. Perfect."
JEN WALKER, NEW MUSIC EDITOR

7 STARDUST DELAIN
Symphonic tune describes spring cleaning. In space.

8 BURN THE SERUM KYNG
This track? It's seriously fuckyng amazing!

9 BACCHANALIA DOWN
"Hits your puny little ears like a Philip H. Anselmo-driven bus that's sporting tyres with extra grooves."
GEORGE GARNER, DEPUTY EDITOR

10 GONE COLD CLUTCH
Clutch are better than you. And everything else.

MISS FORTUNE

A SPARK TO BELIEVE
(SUMERIAN)

KKKK

CAREFUL, KELLIN – THIS LOT ARE AFTER YOUR CROWN

MISS FORTUNE have a dream. What they want is to conquer the whole world through the medium of poppy, rocky music and big attitude. Sound a bit Kellin Quinn? Yep, and Miss Fortune could well be Pierce The Veil and Sleeping With Sirens' long-lost triplet. Mikey Sawyer's vocal ability may not be as strong as Kellin or Vic Fuentes' on the anthemic My Apologies, but to say there is potential would be the understatement of the century. Judging by this debut album, Miss Fortune's fortunes could quite easily become something huge very soon.
DOWNLOAD: My Apologies.
FOR FANS OF: Pierce The Veil, Sleeping With Sirens.

REBECCA RAYNER

HOLY MOUNTAIN

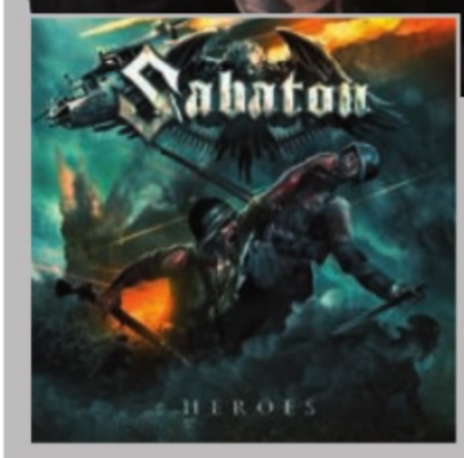
ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS
(CHEMIKAL UNDERGROUND)

KKK

SCOT PSYCH-HEADS TAKE YOU ON A MYSTICAL TRIP

HOLY MOUNTAIN are very far out. So far out that they make fellow UK psych-ers Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats' mix of scuzzy rock'n'roll, LSD and general musical weirdness sound positively far *in*. Take opener LV-42666, which blasts into space (rock) with jets of garage rock powered by reverb, odd noises and musical freakouts everywhere – it sounds like it's being beamed down by space-aliens from another planet and time. A place where bands play gigs on the moon, and a time where the universe's problems are all solvable with a giant amp and a stack of Hawkwind albums. Come, praise the Holy Mountain.
DOWNLOAD: LV-42666.
FOR FANS OF: Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, The Stooges.

NICK RUSKELL



SABATON

HEROES
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKK

SWEDISH WAR ENSEMBLE CONTINUE THEIR ENDLESS METAL CAMPAIGN

SABATON SHOULD have their own series on the History Channel. They don't have any crappy songs about pawn shops, but they do provide a series of historically accurate vignettes focused on war. Last time out, on concept album Carolus Rex, they visited the Swedish Empire (yep, there was one) of the 17th and 18th centuries. On Heroes, they're back to the more familiar battlegrounds of World War II. There's something unsavoury in their constant fetishisation of war, but some of these very real heroes do deserve to have their stories retold. Take

INME

THE DESTINATIONS EP
(SELF-RELEASED / PLEDGEMUSIC)

KKKK

BRENTWOOD BOYS TAKE THE DIY ROUTE TO EXCELLENCE

DESPITE THEIR successes in the '00s, InMe have been functioning like a DIY outfit for a while now. Following the surprise release of 2012's Medusa, the Essex rockers are stepping into 2014 with a four-track EP via PledgeMusic. Proving that operating under the mainstream radar isn't always a bad thing, the alt.rock vets delve into swooping, anthemic choruses with Beached Whales and Driftwood Figurines, while Pelorus Jack (the first single and certified banger) refines the quartet's love of chunky riffs and melodic oomph. Sound familiar? A bit. But it's this homegrown blend of Brit metal that makes us want to get InMe in a headlock until their hair goes fuzzy. Nawh.
DOWNLOAD: Pelorus Jack.
FOR FANS OF: We Are The Ocean, Mallory Knox.

JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

AVATAR

HAIL THE APOCALYPSE
(GAIN MUSIC)

KKK

SWEDISH METAL > JAMES CAMERON'S BLUE ALIENS

A LOT can be learned about Avatar by simply studying the artwork here. Sure, the cover might depict vocalist Johannes Eckerström steering a ship through the apocalypse (complete with giant squid-thing in background), but he's doing it with one hell of a grin. It's this wicked streak of humour that provides intriguing buoyancy to Avatar's otherwise monolithic metal make-up – perfectly exhibited in the eerie composition of Puppet Show, where snarled vocals and winding riffs are overwritten by a nightmarish, circus big-top tune. It's going to get weird, but stick it out and you might just enjoy Avatar's peculiar apocalypse.
DOWNLOAD: Puppet Show.
FOR FANS OF: Rammstein, Avenged Sevenfold, Slipknot.

TOM SHEPHERD

POP EVIL

ONYX
(ELEVEN SEVEN MUSIC)

K

U.S. METAL WITH LESS EDGE THAN A BEACH BALL

POP EVIL have just the right amount of Alice In Chains in Leigh Kakaty's vocals to appeal to U.S. rock radio. Just enough throwback bounce in the hooks to appeal to the nostalgia crowd. And nowhere near enough flavour to satisfy anyone other than the most unadventurous of Shinedown fans. This, their third full-length, is almost impressive in how little ambition it has. Every conceivable edge has been filed away from Onyx, presumably to elicit nothing more controversial than mild shrugs of tolerance from as wide an audience as possible. This is more comfort blanket than rock record, and Pop Evil are a limp disappointment in every respect.
DOWNLOAD: Divide.
FOR FANS OF: Shinedown, Godsmack, Saliva.

HUGH PLATT

Inmate 4859, which lauds the bravery of Witold Pilecki, a Polish resistance fighter who intentionally got sent into Auschwitz in order to gather intelligence. Musically, they unleash a blitzkrieg of brash power chords, symphonic keyboard sweeps and huge choral chants. It's slightly less epic than Carolus Rex, but still ticks all the Sabaton boxes. Particularly those marked 'bombastic power metal' and 'songs about war'.

DOWNLOAD: Night Witches.
FOR FANS OF: Turisas, Hammerfall, Judas Priest.

PAUL TRAVERS

BORIS THE BLADE

THE HUMAN HIVE
(SIEGE OF AMIDA)

KKKK

AN ULTRA-VIOLENT AUSTRALIAN NIGHTMARE

NAMED AFTER the amusing Russian arms dealer from the movie Snatch, Melbourne's Boris The Blade are not looking to make you chuckle. They prefer to attempt the removal your face with wave after wave of unrepentant sonic violence. With too many bands of the tech-death ilk getting so caught up in complexity they forget to be heavy, these angry chaps suffer no such problems. Creating relentless and ruthless storms of labyrinthine death metal, they tie your brain (and spine) in knots while throwing all kinds of evil at you. Pick a track – every one lands with devastating force, every one is unsettling, and every one *kills*. Thanks, Boris.

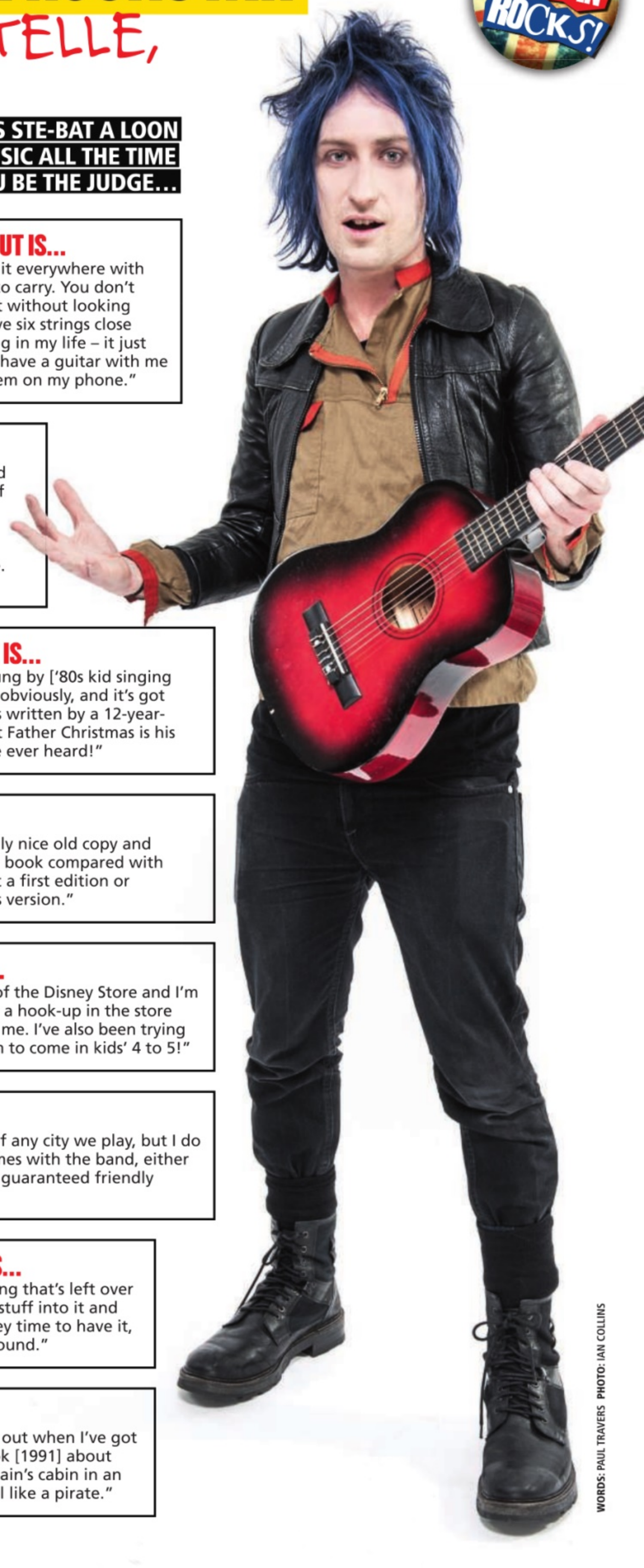
DOWNLOAD: Eulogy.
FOR FANS OF: Beneath The Massacre, Despised Icon.

DAN SLESSOR

ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

STEVEN BATTELLE, LOSTALONE

HIS NEW ALBUM'S BONKERS. BUT IS STE-BAT A LOON HIMSELF? HE LISTENS TO XMAS MUSIC ALL THE TIME AND CALLS ARAGORN A MATE. YOU BE THE JUDGE…



THE THING I CAN'T GO ON TOUR WITHOUT IS…
"This child-sized, quarter-length guitar. I take it everywhere with me on the road. It's not a toy, but it's so easy to carry. You don't need a case and you can walk down the street without looking like you're about to start busking. I like to have six strings close at all times. I've never sat down to write a song in my life – it just happens, mainly when I'm on a walk. I like to have a guitar with me so I can quickly get ideas down and record them on my phone."

MY FAVOURITE FILM IS…
"A toss-up between Jurassic Park and The Lord Of The Rings. I pretty much watch The Lord Of The Rings on a weekly basis – I have it on in the background when I'm working or writing on my own. I know it so well that I don't have to pay too much attention to it anymore. Aragorn's like a mate now."

THE BEST THING ON MY MANTELPIECE IS…
"The seven-inch of Songs For Christmas '87, sung by ['80s kid singing troupe] the Minipops. It's all Christmas songs, obviously, and it's got a song on it called The Man In Red, which was written by a 12-year-old. It's about coming down and realising that Father Christmas is his parents. It's one of the most intense songs I've ever heard!"

MY MOST TREASURED BOOK IS…
"The Hobbit [by J. R. R. Tolkien] I've got a really nice old copy and there's still something special about holding a book compared with reading on the computer or on Kindle. It's not a first edition or anything. It's a bit battered, but it's a nice '70s version."

MY FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING IS…
"My Monsters University jacket. I'm a big fan of the Disney Store and I'm very happy that I fit into a kids' 8 to 9. I've got a hook-up in the store with this woman who puts cool stuff aside for me. I've also been trying to get a Cars mechanic top, but they only seem to come in kids' 4 to 5!"

MY FAVOURITE CITY TO PLAY IS…
"Berlin. I don't want to offend the residents of any city we play, but I do love Berlin. I must have been there over 30 times with the band, either doing press or actually playing. You're always guaranteed friendly people and a really great reception."

THE FOOD I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT IS…
"'Post-Christmas detritus', I call it. It's everything that's left over from Christmas piled onto one plate. You dip stuff into it and it's just delicious. Obviously Christmas is the key time to have it, but I try to make it as often as I can, all year round."

THE COOLEST THING I OWN IS…
"A globe bar that's just full of alcohol. I get it out when I've got guests and it makes me think of that film Hook [1991] about Peter Pan. It looks like it should be in the captain's cabin in an old ship. That's why it's cool – it makes me feel like a pirate."

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTO:** IAN COLLINS

GIGS

MISSING THIS WILL... HURT

NINE INCH NAILS

THEY'VE FINALLY COME BACK TO H-H-HAUNT US!

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHT SINCE RELEASING HESITATION MARKS?
TRENT REZNOR (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It's to really tune out the noise of feedback and online comments and not pay too much attention to that kind of shit. I've been saying this for a while, but I didn't really mean it – I meant to mean it, but I wasn't really truthful. It's too destructive to be too in tune with the critic. And I don't just mean the professional critic, but every asshole with an internet account that's quick to judge and quick to discourage. The sport of trolling and sniping has become very artistically dangerous to tune into."

SO, IS THIS A NEW APPROACH TO MUSIC?
"Yeah, I mean, it's not just this last record. The band's been around 25 years now, and that's a long time. Many waves of taste have risen and fallen in that time and the critical voice that's judging me now is from a different generation. I'm still me, but I look out in my audience and I still see young people – it's not all Hallowe'en night with people trying to squish themselves into latex bondage outfits from 25 years ago! Thank God!"

SO, WHY DO YOU THINK NIN CONTINUES TO RESONATE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?
"I would like to think it's because it's not static and it has an integrity and a truthfulness to it. That's how I'm approaching it."

SUPPORT:
COLD CAVE

DATES: Birmingham LG Arena May 18, Glasgow Hydro 20, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 21, London O2 Arena 23, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 24, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 25.

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER PHOTO: ASHLEY MAILE

TICKETS AND INFO FOR ALL THESE GIGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

KERRANG! DAY
MAY 14

NOTTINGHAM: The Wonder Years

BATH PULLED APART BY HORSES (Moles)
GLASGOW INME, THE RED PAINTINGS, OXYGEN THIEF (Audio)
LONDON IDIOM (Barfly, Camden)
LONDON TWIN ATLANTIC (Boston Music Rooms, Tufnell Park)
MANCHESTER LIT (Club Academy)
MANCHESTER CHARLIE SIMPSON, ROB LYNCH (Deaf Institute)
MANCHESTER BORN OF OSIRIS, AFTER THE BURIAL, BETRAYING THE MARTYRS, BURIED IN VERONA (Sound Control)
MANCHESTER REAL FRIENDS, MODERN BASEBALL, YOU BLEW IT! (Star & Garter)
MILTON KEYNES I AM THE AVALANCHE, TURNOVER, MAJOR LEAGUE, MOOSE BLOOD (Craufurd Arms)
NOTTINGHAM THE WONDER YEARS, A LOSS FOR WORDS, STATE CHAMPS (Rescue Rooms)
SOUTHAMPTON PURE LOVE, PUP (Joiners)

THURSDAY
MAY 15

BIRMINGHAM CHARLIE SIMPSON, ROB LYNCH (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
BRIGHTON THE WONDER YEARS, A LOSS FOR WORDS, STATE CHAMPS (Haunt)
CARDIFF PULLED APART BY HORSES (Globe)
CHESTER PURE LOVE, PUP (Compass)
DONCASTER ALTERED SKY (Woolpack)
GLASGOW COURTNEY LOVE, WHITE MILES (O2 Academy Glasgow)
LONDON LIT (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON BORN OF OSIRIS, AFTER THE BURIAL, BETRAYING THE MARTYRS, BURIED IN VERONA (O2 Academy Islington)
NORWICH REAL FRIENDS, MODERN BASEBALL, YOU BLEW IT! (Epic Studios)
NOTTINGHAM I AM THE AVALANCHE, TURNOVER, MAJOR LEAGUE, MOOSE BLOOD (Rock City Basement)
PETERBOROUGH FEED THE RHINO, THE HOWLING, ZOAX (Met Lounge)

DECADE

Their debut album is called Good Luck, but the Bath fivesome could definitely use a rabbit's foot or five on tour. Here's frontman Alex Sears to tell us about their unluckiest on-the-road moments...

LOSING THEIR HEADS (LITERALLY)
"We seem to be incapable of leaving a venue with all of our gear! One time, we played in Swindon and managed to leave pretty much half of our backline behind. We sometimes fail to take some things with us in the first place! So, often we'll be leaving for tour and it turns out Dan [Clarke] hasn't got any drumsticks. We haven't had to break small branches off trees yet, but it wouldn't surprise me..."

MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE FLOOR
"Even though we go crazy onstage, I've not taken a guitar to the face... yet. But I tend to fall over a lot of my own accord. Because I'm so tall, nine times out of 10 if I jump while onstage, I'll fall over as soon as I land. Honestly, I've fallen into the drum kit so many times..."

HAVING STINKIN' LUCK
"We always go out with the best intentions of keeping the van nice, but by the end of the tour it goes to shit. You can't see the floor for bottles and wrappers and crap everywhere. The smell starts to get ugly, too, and on our first European tour we couldn't find anywhere to wash our clothes, so we'd hang up our stage gear to 'air' – and that doesn't help!"

SUPPORT:
ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS

DATES: Bath Moles May 17, London Camden Barfly 18, Norwich Epic Studios III 19, Glasgow King Tut's 20, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 21, Manchester Sound Control 22.

PLYMOUTH HAWSER, DOWNPRESSER (Tiki Bar & Diner)
SHEFFIELD INME, THE RED PAINTINGS, OXYGEN THIEF (Corporation)
ST ALBANS IDIOM (Horn)

FRIDAY
MAY 16

LONDON: Pure Love

BIRMINGHAM SIRENS (Asylum)
CARDIFF CHAPTERS (BAA Bar)
CHELTENHAM CARCER CITY, RED SEAS FIRE, GRIEVER, AVENGE THE HEARTACHE AND WE MAY BE STRANGERS (2Pigs)
DUBLIN BURY TOMORROW (Academy 2)
DUBLIN LIT (Button Factory)
FOLKESTONE FEED THE RHINO, THE HOWLING, ZOAX (Quarterhouse)
GLASGOW I AM THE AVALANCHE, TURNOVER, MAJOR LEAGUE, MOOSE BLOOD (Audio)
GREAT YARMOUTH ABSOLVA, BABYLON FIRE (Oakwood)
LEEDS COURTNEY LOVE, WHITE MILES (O2 Academy Leeds)
LEEDS ALTERED SKY (Packhorse)
LEEDS BEAR TRADE (Santiagos)
LEEDS BORN OF OSIRIS, AFTER THE BURIAL, BETRAYING THE MARTYRS, BURIED IN VERONA (University Mine Bar)
LEICESTER REAL FRIENDS, MODERN BASEBALL, YOU BLEW IT! (Sound House)
LONDON H.E.A.T (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON CHARLIE SIMPSON, ROB LYNCH (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON PURE LOVE, PUP (Underworld, Camden)
LONDON PURE LOVE (Barfly, Camden)
LONDON KATATONIA (Union Chapel)
MANCHESTER INME, THE RED PAINTINGS, OXYGEN THIEF (Sound Control)
SOUTHAMPTON HAWSER, DOWNPRESSER (Unit)
SOUTHEND IDIOM (Chinnery's)

SATURDAY
MAY 17

SHEFFIELD: I Am The Avalanche

BATH DECADE, ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS (Moles)
BELFAST BURY TOMORROW (Oh Yeah Music Centre)
BIRMINGHAM LIT (Institute)
BRIGHTON CHARLIE SIMPSON, ROB LYNCH (Concorde 2)
BRIGHTON ABSOLVA, BABYLON FIRE (Green Door Store)
CARDIFF LA DISPUTE (Clwb Ifor Bach)
LEEDS KATATONIA (Brudenell Social)
LEEDS ALLUSONDRUGS (Temple Of Boom)
LEEDS HAWSER, DOWNPRESSER (Wharf Chambers)
LONDON INME, THE RED PAINTINGS, OXYGEN THIEF (O2 Academy Islington)
MANCHESTER THE EXPLOITED, ANGELIC UPSTARTS, UK SUBS, THE BUSINESS, GOLDBLADE, GBH (North West Calling @ Ritz)

NEWCASTLE H.E.A.T (O2 Academy2 Newcastle)
NOTTINGHAM IDIOM (Rock City Basement)
SELBY ALTERED SKY (Riverside)
SHEFFIELD I AM THE AVALANCHE, TURNOVER, MAJOR LEAGUE, MOOSE BLOOD (Corporation)

SUNDAY
MAY 18

BIRMINGHAM NINE INCH NAILS, COLD CAVE (LG Arena)
BIRMINGHAM COURTNEY LOVE, WHITE MILES (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BRISTOL LIT (Fleece)
GLASGOW H.E.A.T (Cathouse)
KINGSTON I AM THE AVALANCHE, TURNOVER, MAJOR LEAGUE, MOOSE BLOOD (Fighting Cocks)
LEEDS LA DISPUTE (Brudenell Social Club)
LONDON DECADE, ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS (Barfly, Camden)
LONDON HAWSER, DOWNPRESSER (Birthdays)
LONDON BONDED BY BLOOD, FLAYED DISCIPLE, SEPREVATION (Boston Music Rooms, Tufnell Park)
SHEFFIELD ALTERED SKY (Dada)
SWINDON ABSOLVA, BABYLON FIRE(Vic)

MONDAY
MAY 19

BRISTOL: Courtney Love

BRISTOL BONDED BY BLOOD, FLAYED DISCIPLE, SEPREVATION (Exchange)
BRISTOL COURTNEY LOVE, WHITE MILES (O2 Academy Bristol)
BRISTOL CHARLIE SIMPSON, ROB LYNCH (Thekla)
GLASGOW EDEN'S CURSE (Ivory Blacks)

LOCAL HEROES
SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK'S UNSIGNED TALENT!

THIS WEEK!

VULGATE

FROM: Hastings.
WE ARE: William Brown (lead vocals/bass), Ben Taylor (guitar), Dan Weir (guitar), Owen Fowler (drums).
FAVOURITE BANDS: Death, Testament, Cynic, Megadeth, Dying Fetus, At The Gates.
WE SOUND LIKE...: "Progressive and aggressive thrash and death metal, with jazz-infused sections and riffs so filthy Barry Scott couldn't get rid of 'em."
PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK US OUT 'CAUSE...: "Our live shows are guaranteed to be a pulsating mass of long hair, ungroomed beards and unscripted off-key banter. As business is banter… and business is good!"
CATCH US AT: Kent Woodie's Youth Centre May 17, Kent Sheerness Ivy Leaf 24, Southampton Hobbit August 15.
MORE INFO AT: Facebook.com/vulgatethrash

ARE YOU AND YOUR BANDMATES LOCAL HEROES? IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE TO GIGS@KERRANG.COM, AND DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH A PHOTO OF YOUR BAND. SIMPLY PUT 'LOCAL HEROES' AND YOUR BAND NAME IN THE SUBJECT HEADER AND YOU COULD BE APPEARING IN THIS VERY SLOT VERY SOON...

GLASGOW LA DISPUTE (King Tut's)
MANCHESTER H.E.A.T (Academy 3)
NORWICH DECADE, ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS (Epic Studios)
READING LIT (Sub89)

TUESDAY
MAY 20

BOLTON EDEN'S CURSE (Railway)
CARDIFF BONDED BY BLOOD, FLAYED DISCIPLE, SEPREVATION (Full Moon)
GLASGOW NINE INCH NAILS, COLD CAVE(Hydro)
GLASGOW DECADE, ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS (King Tuts)
MANCHESTER LA DISPUTE (Gorilla)
MANCHESTER DECADE, ONLY RIVALS, BRAWLERS (Sound Control)
NOTTINGHAM COURTNEY LOVE, WHITE MILES (Rock City)

For free inclusion, e-mail your gig/festival details to: Gigs@kerrang.com
Please include: 1. **DATE** 2. **CITY** 3. **VENUE** 4. **BAND** (+band genre) 5. **SUPPORT BANDS** or **FESTIVAL INFO.** No attachments!
Note: If any of these details are missing, listing will not be included.
Deadline is 15 days previous to Kerrang! issue dates.

GO SEE! TWIN ATLANTIC

SUPPORT: TBC
TOUR DATE: LONDON BOSTON MUSIC ROOM MAY 14.

There are a million reasons to try and get yourself a ticket to this tiny, one-off Twin Atlantic show. Okay, maybe not millions, but at least a hundred... the main one, though? To hear the Scottish quartet play new track Heart And Soul live (from upcoming album Great Divide, due out August 18). Because that thing is a massive TUUUUUUNE! Can't get a ticket? Then we suggest you take a glass (empty it of drink first) and stand up against the wall outside the venue. It'll be just as good as being inside, and way cheaper than eBaying a ticket.

BREAKING NEWS

METALLICA ARE HEADLINING GLASTONBURY

METALLICA

DATE: Glastonbury @ Pilton Worthy Farm June 28.

THE THRASH MASTERS PREPARE TO GET MUDDY…

"We've never played Glastonbury, and we probably never will, because of the first five letters of our name, but I accept that," Lars Ulrich told K! last year. "It could be fun, all of us lurching out there…" Well, Lars, you got your wish – you're going to Worthy Farm in Somerset! Just imagine James Hetfield bellowing, '*Gimme fuel gimme fire*' and organiser Michael Eavis appearing with a jerry can of two-stroke oil. Or being stopped during Battery and told that all the chickens are free-range. But enough of the farming puns. What we're really excited about is that while 'Tallica will be just one of the legends to have trod the boards on Glastonbury's iconic Pyramid Stage – like The Rolling Stones, Radiohead, and Lars' bezzies Oasis (no, really) – they'll be the heaviest thing ever to hit the festival. Quite what 200,000 Kasabian fans will make of Hetfield's *'Yeah-heah'* bits we don't know. But we do know that Lars has to pack his wellies. And so do we. Make sure you read next week's issue for more Metallica updates!

ALSO ANNOUNCED!

AUSSIE RULES: Parkway Drive

BABYMETAL
London Camden Electric Ballroom July 7.

BESTIVAL
Latest additions: The Amazing Snakeheads, Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, The Front Bottoms and loads more! Isle Of Wight Robin Hill September 4 – 7.

BIFFY CLYRO
Kilmainham Royal Hospital June 28. Support: You Me At Six, Little Matador.

BLACK STAR RIDERS
Holmfirth Picturedrome July 18, Ebbw Vale Steelhouse Festival 19, Brighton Concorde II 20, Northampton Roadmender 22, Leicester Academy 23, Guildford G Live 24, Buckley Tivoli August 6, Birmingham Asylum 7.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR FESTIVAL
Latest additions: Triptykon, Obsidian Kingdom, Jaldaboath, Stormzone, Stahlsarg. Derbyshire Catton Hall August 7 – 10.

BLOODY HAMMERS
London Camden Underworld June 8, Cardiff Moon Club 11.

DOWN BY LAW
London Camden Black Heart August 1, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 2, Nottingham Dog House 3, Hull Adelphi 4, Glasgow Audio 5, Newport Le Pub 6, Exeter Cavern 7.

FIELDS OF NEPHILIM
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire December 5 – 6.

FINNTROLL
London Dome October 4, Bristol Fleece 5.

FURY FEST
Latest additions: Drug Church, Headroom, Malevolence, Desolated, Shields, Arcane Addiction, Doomed From Day One, Buckle Tongue. Liverpool East Village Arts Club May 10.

IN FLAMES
Manchester Ritz October 16, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 18.

KEVIN DEVINE
Liverpool Korova July 20, Dublin Whelans 21, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 31, Nottingham Bodega August 1, Manchester Deaf Institute 2, Glasgow Audio 3, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 4, Kingston All Saints Church 5, Brighton Green Door Store 6, Bristol Louisiana 7.

MACMILLANFEST 2014
Line-up: Bleed From Within, Monuments, Adelphia, The Winter Hill Syndicate, Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, We Are Tyrants, Follow You Home, Anavae, Violet, Lock & Key, A World Defined, The Inside Is Live, The Great White, Spangle Corps, The Hype Theory, Falling Up Stairs, Vanity Box, Arthur Walwin, Layby, Garden State, As December Falls, Jessica Matthews. Nottingham Rescue Rooms September 6.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London Camden Roundhouse December 12, O2 Academy Newcastle 13, Glasgow Barrowland 14, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Bristol 16, Manchester Academy 17. Support: Heaven Shall Burn, Northlane, Carnifex.

RICHIE SAMBORA
London O2 Academy Islington June 13, Dublin Olympia 30, Belfast Ulster Hall July 1, O2 ABC Glasgow 3. Support: Orianthi.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Latest additions: The Ataris, The Skints, The First, Chas Palmer Williams (Lightyear), Sean Smith (DJ and compere). Leeds University May 24, Hertfordshire Forum 25, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 26.

SONISPHERE
Latest additions: HIM, Anthrax (playing Among The Living), Comeback Kid, Black Dogs, The Bots, Empire Kill, Love Zombies, Storm Zone, October File, Rival State, The Wild Lies, Straight Lines. Knebworth Park July 4 – 6.

TONIGHT ALIVE
Support added: This Wild Life.

Tickets for all K! gigs are available from:
ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

2000 TREES FESTIVAL
Line-up: Jamie Lenman, Gnarwolves, Johnny Foreigner, Oxygen Thief, Dave McPherson, The Blackout, Cerebral Ballzy, Three Trapped Tigers, Darlia, LOOM, Dancing Years, Trash Talk, Empire, Band Of Skulls, Gorgeous George, Sam Duckworth, Little Matador, Bleach Blood, Delta Sleep, The St. Pierre Snake Invasion, Thrill Collins, Eugene Quell, The Common Tongues, Atrevido, I, The Lion, Wild Cat Strike and more! Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 10 – 12.

A DAY TO REMEMBER
Cardiff Arena August 26.

AGNOSTIC FRONT
Dundee Non Zeros August 11, Buckley Tivoli 13, Newcastle Think Tank? 14, Edinburgh Bannermans 15, York Fibbers 16.

ALT-FEST
Line-up: Marilyn Manson, The Cult, Arch Enemy, Cradle Of Filth, Malefice, Fearless Vampire Killers, Amen, Agonize, Mesh, Fintroll, Krokodil, Savage Messiah, Parade Ground, The One Hundred, The Damned, Dead Kennedys, The Defiled and loads more! Kettering Boughton House August 15 – 17.

ANDREW W.K.
Coventry Kasbah July 18, Brighton Haunt 20, Leeds Cockpit 29, Liverpool East Village Arts Club 31.

ANTHRAX
Belfast Limelight July 1, Dublin Academy 2.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA
Norwich UEA October 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, O2 Academy Newcastle 24, Edinburgh Picture House 26, Glasgow Barrowland 27, Manchester Academy 31, O2 Academy Leeds November 1, Cardiff Great Hall 2, O2 Academy Bristol 4, O2 Guildhall Southampton 5, London Roundhouse 6, O2 Academy Birmingham 7, Brighton Dome 9.

ATTENTION THIEVES
Southampton Joiners June 25, Brighton Sticky Mike's 26, Kent Ivy Inn Sheerness 27, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 28, Swansea Static Bar 29. Support: Freeze The Atlantic, Fizzy Blood.

AT THE GATES
London Kentish Town Forum December 4, Manchester Academy II 5, Glasgow Garage 6, O2 Academy Birmingham 7, Cardiff University Solus 8. Support: Triptykon, Morbus Chron.

BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Onslaught, Lawnmower Deth, Skreamer, Godslave, Kambrium, Totengefluster, The Starry Wisdom Cult, Razorblade Smile, Achren, Engraved In Blood, Diementia, Stahlsarg, Designs Of Chaos, Hybris, Divine Chaos. Stoke Prior Sports And Country Club, Bromsgrove August 22 – 24.

BLACKBERRY SMOKE
Dublin Academy October 15, O2 ABC Glasgow 16, Manchester Ritz 17, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 19, Cambridge Junction 21, Birmingham Institute 22.

BLACK SABBATH TIME
Line-up: Black Sabbath, Soundgarden, Faith No More, Motörhead, Soulfly, Rise To Remain, Blitz Kids, The Struts, The First, Gallows, Bo Ningen, The Graveltones, Hang The Bastard, A Plastic Rose, Hell, Kobra And The Lotus, Broken Hands, The Bots. London Hyde Park July 4.

BLACK STONE CHERRY
Glasgow SSE Hydro October 26, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 27, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 28, Birmingham LG Arena 30, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 31, London Wembley Arena November 1. Support: Airbourne, Theory Of A Deadman.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR FESTIVAL
Line-up: Megadeth, Down, Emperor, Decapitated, Saxon, Amon Amarth, Hatebreed, Carcass, Lacuna Coil, Winterfylleth, Graveyard, Blood Red Throne, Battleaxe, Profane Omen, The King Is Blind, Shining, Skyclad, The Mercy House, Krokodil, Avatar, Morgue Orgy, October File, Abhorrent Decimation, Phantom, The Canyon Observer, Angerman, Brutai, Scordatura, Stoneghost and loads more! Derbyshire Catton Hall August 7 – 10.

BRING ME THE HORIZON
London Wembley Arena December 5.

BURY TOMORROW
Dublin Academy II May 16, Belfast Oh Yeah Music Centre 17, Stoke Sugarmill 21, Edinburgh Studio 24 22, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 23, O2 Academy2 Oxford 28, Cardiff Solus II 29, Plymouth White Rabbit 30, Kingston College 31 – June 1.

CALLING FESTIVAL
Line-up: Aerosmith, Joe Bonamassa, Thunder, Walking Papers, Richie Sambora, Radkey, Heaven's Basement, Lonely The Brave. London Clapham Common June 28.

CAMDEN ROCKS
Line-up: The Blackout, Hacktivist, Ginger Wildheart, The Virginmarys, Orange Goblin, Turbowolf, Sonic Boom Six, Nine Black Alps, Apologies, I Have None, Acoustic TV (Terrorvision), The Howling, Straight Lines, Hang The Bastard and loads more! London Camden @ various venues May 31.

CANNIBAL CORPSE
London Kentish Town Forum October 31. Support: Revocation, Aeon.

CHARLIE SIMPSON
Manchester Deaf Institute May 14, O2 Academy2 Birmingham15, London O2 Academy Islington 16, Brighton Concorde II 17, Bristol Thekla 19. Support: Rob Lynch. London Camden Roundhouse October 14.

CHUCK RAGAN
Nottingham Rock City May 27, Bristol Thekla 28, London Highbury Garage 29, Brighton Haunt June 24, Manchester Gorilla 25, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 26. Support: Northcote.

CONVERGE
Manchester Academy August 4, Glasgow Classic Grand 5, London King's Cross Scala 6. Support: Martyrdöd, Okkultokrati.

CORRUPT MORAL ALTAR
Liverpool Maguires July 23, Leeds Packhorse 24, Glasgow 13th Note 25, Aberdeen Downstairs 26, Preston Adelphi 27.

COURTNEY LOVE
O2 Academy Glasgow May 15, O2 Academy Leeds 16, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, O2 Academy Bristol 19, Nottingham Rock City 20. Support: White Miles.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Bolt Thrower, Cannibal Corpse, Saint Vitus, Raging Speedhorn. Leeds University Union November 11.

DEATHSTARS
Bristol Thekla November 2, Manchester Academy III 3, Glasgow Cathouse 4, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 5, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 6, London Highbury Garage 7.

DECADE
Bath Moles May 17, London Camden Barfly 18, Norwich Epic Studios 19, Manchester Sound Control 20, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 21. Support: Only Rivals, Brawlers.

DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT
Nottingham Rock City July 3, Leamington Spa Assembly 4.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: Avenged Sevenfold, Linkin

Park, Aerosmith, Rob Zombie, Fall Out Boy, Alter Bridge, The Offspring, Status Quo, Trivium, Within Temptation, Bring Me The Horizon, Steel Panther, Bad Religion, Twisted Sister, Skindred, Killswitch Engage, Volbeat, Buckcherry, Bowling For Soup, While She Sleeps, Crossfaith, Bury Tomorrow, Memphis May Fire, The Pretty Reckless, Seether, We Came As Romans, Opeth, Behemoth, The Dillinger Escape Plan, letlive., The Used, Arcane Roots, blessthefall, Suicide Silence, SikTh, Zebrahead, Anathema, Black Label Society, Miss May I, Lonely The Brave, Skid Row, Richie Sambora, Turbowolf, Cytota, Drenge, Baby Godzilla, The Temperance Movement, Nothing More, Dead City Streets, Goldray and loads more! Donington Park June 13 – 15.

DREAM THEATER
Sheffield City Hall July 5.

EPICA
London Kentish Town Forum December 6.

FLOOD OF RED
Glasgow Stereo May 28, Newcastle Think Tank 29, Corby Ex-Servicemen's Club 30, Swansea Static June 1, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 2, Edinburgh Studio 24 3.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
Grimsby Yardbirds July 4, Harlow Square 25, Bridgend Hobos Music Venue September 25, Blackburn King George's Hall 26.

GALLOWS
Brighton Green Door Store July 3.

GHOSTFEST
Line-up: Being As An Ocean, Betraying The Martyrs, Hundredth, Nasty, Desolated, Rotting Out, Astroid Boys, Ingested, Martyr Defiled, Black Tongue, No Second Chance, Close Your Eyes, Nexilva, Lock And Key, Shields, Stick To Your Guns, Annotations Of An Autopsy, Azriel, Cold Hard Truth, Acrania, Trial And Error, Counting Days, Sentenced, Grader. Leeds Metropolitan University June 26 – 28.

THE GHOST INSIDE
Southampton Talking Heads May 21, Plymouth White Rabbit 22. Support: The Devil Wears Prada, I Killed The Prom Queen, Caliban.

GHOST TOWN
London O2 Academy2 Islington May 28, Manchester Sound Control 29, Sheffield Corporation 30, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 31, Glasgow King Tuts June 1, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 3, Southampton Joiners 4.

HEART OF A COWARD
Leicester Cookie Jar May 30, Carlisle Brickyard June 1.

HEVY FESTIVAL
Line-up: 68, Brutality Will Prevail, The Catharsis, Deez Nuts, Devil Sold His Soul, Empire, Empress AD, The Hell, Iwrestledabearonce, Monuments, Nai Harvest, Oathbreaker, The One Hundred, Palm Reader, Polar, Reel Big Fish, The Safety Fire, Stampin' Ground, TesseracT, Texas In July. Kent Port Lympne Wild Animal Park August 15 – 16.

I AM THE AVALANCHE
Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms May 14, Nottingham Rock City Basement 15, Glasgow Audio 16, Sheffield Corporation 17, Kingston Fighting Cocks 18, Cardiff Undertone 22, Southampton Joiners 23. Support: Turnover, Major League, Moose Blood.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: Biffy Clyro, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fall Out Boy, The Pretty Reckless. Newport Seaclose Park June 12 – 15.

JACK WHITE
London Eventim Apollo July 5.

JANE'S ADDICTION
London O2 Academy Brixton August 20, O2 Apollo Manchester 21.

KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES
Plymouth White Rabbit October 5, Exeter Phoenix 6, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 9, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 10, Manchester Gorilla 11, Sheffield Corporation 12, Leeds Cockpit 14, Aberdeen Tunnels 15, Glasgow Garage 16, Carlisle Brickyard 17, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 18, Birmingham Institute 20, Colchester Arts Centre 21, Norwich Waterfront 23, Bath Komeda 24, Gloucester Guildhall 25, O2 Academy2 Oxford 26, Reading Sub 89 27, London Camden KOKO 29, Cardiff Great Hall 31.

KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms June 13.

KREATOR / ARCH ENEMY
Leamington Spa Assembly Rooms December 16, O2 Academy Bristol 17, London Kentish Town Forum 18, Manchester Academy 19, Dublin Academy 20, Glasgow QMU 21, O2 Academy Newcastle 22. Support: Sodom, Vader.

LA DISPUTE
Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach May 17, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 18, Glasgow King Tut's 19, Manchester Gorilla 20, London Bush Hall 21 – 23.

LESS THAN JAKE
Bridgend Hobos May 23.

LIT
Manchester Club Academy May 14, London Camden Electric Ballroom 15, Dublin Button Factory 16, Birmingham Institute @ Library 17, Bristol Fleece 18, Reading Sub89 19, Cheltenham Grumpy Whiskers 30, Southampton Talking Heads June 1. Support: Electric River.

LONELY THE BRAVE
London Dingwalls June 4.

MACHINE HEAD
Nottingham Rescue Rooms July 29, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 31, Newcastle University August 2, Norwich Waterfront 3, Brighton Concorde 4.

MERTHYR ROCK
Line-up: Taking Back Sunday, The Blackout, Reel Big Fish, Anti-Flag. Merthyr Tydfil Cyfarthfa Castle August 17.

NASS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Cypress Hill, Funeral For A Friend, Blitz Kids, The Bronx, Cerebral Ballzy, Gallows, Sonic Boom Six, Trash Talk, Verses. Somerset Bath & West Showground July 11 – 13.

NATIVES
Liverpool EVAC Loft May 28, Leicester Sound House 29, Norwich Epic Studios 30, Guildford Boileroom 31, Brockenhurst Smoked & Uncut Festival June 1, Swansea Sin City 2, Plymouth White Rabbit 3, Exeter Cavern Club 5, Bedford Esquires 6, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 7, St Albans Horn 8.

NEW FOUND GLORY
Birmingham Institute November 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 17, Nottingham Rock City 18, O2 Academy Liverpool 20, Manchester Academy 21, O2 Academy Leeds 22, Cardiff University 23, O2 Academy Bristol 25, Portsmouth Pyramids 26, London Kentish Town Forum 28 – 29. Support: The Story So Far, Candy Hearts, Only Rivals.

NINE INCH NAILS
Birmingham LG Arena May 18, Glasgow Hydro Arena 20, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 21, London O2 Arena 23, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 24, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 25. Support: Cold Cave.

ONSLAUGHT
Dublin Voodoo Lounge July 13, Belfast Limelight II 14, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 16, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 17, O2 Academy2 Sheffield 18, O2 Academy Bristol 19, London O2 Academy Islington 20, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 21. Support: Artillery, Hatriot.

PEARL JAM
Leeds Arena July 8, Milton Keynes National Bowl 11. Support: Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.

PRIMORDIAL
Dublin Academy November 28. Support: Hell, Dead Congregation, Malthusian.

PURE LOVE
Southampton Joiners May 14, Chester Compass 15, London Camden Underworld 16, London Camden Barfly 16. Support: PUP (except Barfly).

READING & LEEDS
Line-up: blink-182, Of Mice & Men, Arctic Monkeys, You Me At Six, Architects, Issues, Royal Blood, Queens Of The Stone Age, Paramore, Enter Shikari, Jimmy Eat World, Deaf Havana, Hacktivist, A Day To Remember, Sleeping With Sirens, Don Broco, The Hives, Neck Deep, Marmozets, Lower Than Atlantis, letlive., Basement, Blood Red Shoes, Crossfaith, Dry The River, Pulled Apart By Horses, Gnarwolves, Papa Roach, Young Guns, Tonight Alive, The Story So Far, Twin Atlantic, Mallory Knox, Lonely The Brave, Gogol Bordello, Brody Dalle, Möngöl Hörde, Band Of Skulls, A Wilhelm Scream, Baby Godzilla, Darlia, Dave Hause, Every Time I Die, Mayday Parade, PUP, Slaves, The Flatliners, The Front Bottoms, The Orwells, The Skints, The Wonder Years, Touché Amoré, Wovenwar. Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 22 – 24.

REAL FRIENDS
Manchester Star & Garter May 14, Norwich Epic Studios 15, Leicester Soundhouse 16. Support: Modern Baseball, You Blew It!.

REEL BIG FISH
O2 Academy August Liverpool 2.

RIVAL SONS
London King's Cross Scala June 9, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 10, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 11, Manchester Gorilla 12.

SAXON
O2 Academy Bristol November 30, O2 Academy Bournemouth December 1, Nottingham Rock City 2, Manchester Ritz 4, Dublin Academy 5, Belfast Limelight 6, O2 ABC York 7, O2 Academy Newcastle 9, O2 Academy Leeds 10, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 11, O2 Academy Oxford 12, London O2 Shepherd's Bush 13. Support: Hell.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Line-up: The All-American Rejects, Canterbury, letlive., Bury Tomorrow, The Ghost Inside, The Devil Wears Prada, I Killed The Prom Queen, Caliban, Crown The Empire, Zebrahead, Fandangle, I Am The Avalanche, Real Friends, Neck Deep, Decade, We Are The In Crowd, Less Than Jake, Motion City Soundtrack, Hit The Lights, State Champs, A Loss For Words, Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Marmozets, Blitz Kids, Capdown, Save Your Breath, Modern Baseball, Ghost Town, Heart Of A Coward, MC Lars, We The Kings, Mallory Knox, Kids In Glass Houses, Chiodos, Gnarwolves, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Jesse James, Feed The Rhino, Natives, Landscapes, Vinnie Caruana, Mike Herrera, You, Me, And Everyone We Know, Rob Lynch, The Lion And The Wolf. Leeds University May 24, Hertfordshire Forum 25, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 26.

SLAM DUNK SCOTLAND / WALES
Line-up: We Are The In Crowd, Hit The Lights, Neck Deep, Decade. Edinburgh Liquid Rooms May 23, Newport Centre 27.

SLAM DUNK: SKA PUNK TOUR
Line-up: Zebrahead, Fandangle. Manchester Club Academy May 22, O2 Academy Newcastle 23, Norwich Waterfront 27, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 28.

SONISPHERE
Line-up: Iron Maiden, Metallica, The Prodigy, Slayer, Mastodon, Alice In Chains, Ghost B.C., Airbourne, Gojira, Karnivool, Limp Bizkit, Anthrax, The Sisters Of Mercy, Silverstein, Carnifex, The Virginmarys, Devin Townsend Project, Chas & Dave, Dropkick Murphys, Deftones, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, Reel Big Fish, Protest The Hero, Alestorm, Truckfighters, Kerbdog, Only Crime, Blitz Kids, Itch, Max Raptor, Hounds, Anti-Flag, Black Spiders, Brutality Will Prevail, Dog Eat Dog, Electric Wizard, Empire, Krokodil, Reckless Love, Raging Speedhorn, Stampin' Ground, TesseracT, The Defiled, The Safety Fire, The Hell, The Hype Theory, Wilko Johnson, Dream Theater, Devil You Know, Yashin, The Cadillac Three, Glamour Of The Kill, Broken Hands, Fort Hope, The One Hundred, Collibus, Babymetal, Therapy?, Atari Teenage Riot, Bo Ningen, Trash Talk, Canterbury, LostAlone, Bleed From Within, Dregen, Beastmilk, Malefice, Glass City Vice and more! Knebworth Park July 4 – 6.

STEVE HARRIS
Norwich Waterfront July 8, Brighton Concorde II 9, Folkestone Quarterhouse 10. Support: The Raven Age.

TECH-FEST 2014
Line-up: Devil Sold His Soul, Alaya, Chimp Spanner, The Algorithm, Martyr Defiled, Destiny Potato, David Maxim Micic, Eumeria, Now Voyager, Shields, No Sin Escapes His Gaze, Noise Trail Immersion, Doomed From Day One. Newark Showground July 10 – 14.

T IN THE PARK
Line-up: Biffy Clyro, Arctic Monkeys, You Me At Six, Twin Atlantic, Manic Street Preachers. Kinross-Shire Balado Airfield July 11 – 13.

TONIGHT ALIVE
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms November 24, London Camden KOKO 26, Cardiff Solus 27, Birmingham Institute 28, Manchester Academy 29, Glasgow Garage 30.

TRASH TALK
Stoke Sugarmill July 7, Leicester Scholar Bar 8, Newport Le Pub 9, Coventry Kasbah 10, Tunbridge Wells Forum 13.

TWIN ATLANTIC
London Boston Arms May 14.

THE USED
London Kings Cross Scala June 17.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms October 14, Bristol Fleece 15, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 16, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 18, Manchester Academy III 19, Leeds Cockpit 20, Edinburgh Liquid Room 21, London King's Cross Scala 23, Reading Bowery District 24.

WEDNESDAY 13 (ACOUSTIC)
Southampton Cellar May 21, Bristol Thekla 22, Newcastle Cluny 23, Glasgow Stereo 24, Manchester Deaf Institute 25, Norwich Waterfront Studio 27, Tunbridge Wells Forum 28, London Borderline 29, Wolverhampton Little Civic 30, Nottingham Rock City 31.

THE WONDER YEARS
Nottingham Rescue Rooms May 14, Brighton Haunt 15. Support: A Loss For Words, State Champs.

Y NOT FESTIVAL
Line-up: Reel Big Fish, Andrew W.K., The Blackout, Itch. Derbyshire Pikehall August 1 – 3.

MY FIRST GIG

STEREOPHONICS, CARDIFF, 1997

ALED PHILLIPS, KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES

"I ACTUALLY went to a bunch of pop gigs first, and I think the first one was Boyzone, which is embarrassing, but my first *rock* gig was Stereophonics when I was about 11. My sisters were massive fans and I got sucked into loving them through them, and they were the band that really kind of changed my tastes. It was my sisters who took me, and I was *so* excited that day. I was at school, so I was counting the minutes down, and I went straight from there to get in the queue so we could get as close as possible – as the cool kids do!

"I was so excited to see the band I had kind of tunnel vision, and was oblivious to just about everything else going on, though I do remember there were lots of very *drunk* people there, which was new for me. The Canadian band Our Lady Peace opened for them, and I remember there was a song called Superman's Dead that stood out, but for most of the set I was in the 'hurry up and get done so Stereophonics can play' state of mind!

"I can't actually remember that much of their set – it's all a big blur – but I know they played Too Many Sandwiches, which was my favourite of their songs, and a very nice man put me up on his shoulders during it because I was so small, and that obviously was an awesome moment. They had a pretty modest light show at that stage and didn't have video screens or anything; it was more of a proper rock show before they went interstellar, and I couldn't say they were very charismatic – which is very South Wales – but I probably hung on Kelly Jones' every word!

"I didn't get a T-shirt because they were all too big, but I bought a programme, and I think I read it about 800 times, and there's probably four words in there at most! I was buzzing, though, and it was definitely part of what inspired me to start a band."

"A NICE MAN PUT ME UP ON HIS SHOULDERS"

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WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

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Roy Hodgson's (not so) fun fact for the day: there is not even a squad's worth of Englishmen currently playing top level European football. The Spanish have enough to fill three squads, while the number of German and even French players in this year's Champions League is enough to make any England fan wince…

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Rob Lynch

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NATIVES

DECADE

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WE ARE THE IN CROWD

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES

HIOBOS

MALLORY KNOX

LESS THAN JAKE

SAVE YOUR BREATH

Slam-Dunk

THE ULTIMATE PREVIEW!

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

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THE *ALL-NEW* ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

THIS WEEK: ROU REYNOLDS, ENTER SHIKARI

Two stars on the leaderboard are Brits. So it'd be nice, in this patriotic issue, if Rou could make it three up there. Grab your keyboard, Reynolds – it's time for the test!

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

WHAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU'VE DONE AT A GIG?
"I once tried playing a show in flip-flops, and it just rendered me unable to keep on my feet. I went flat on my face again and again. I was stubbing toes and breaking toenails. I wouldn't advise it."

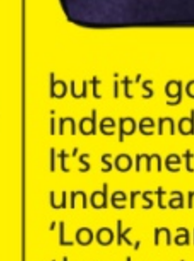
WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST GIFT YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN BY A FAN?
"The craziest thing, just in terms of how much effort went into it, was when this young lady constructed dolls of us out of cotton. They were amazing. They were the size of your forearm, and the attention to detail, the knitting and the stitching was stunning. It's more impressive than weird. It would only have been really weird if they were made from her own hair."

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT?
"Years and years ago. This other band was sharing our gear, and their singer decided to start kicking over our amps and cymbals. We let it slide, but then he started booting our electronics, which are much more breakable and valuable. Me and Rob [Rolfe, drums] ran on and rugby-tackled the guy. Then there was basically a brawl onstage."
DID YOU YELL, '*YABBA-DABBA-DO ONE, SON,*' WHILE YOU DID IT?

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

WHAT WERE THE PEAK UK CHART POSITIONS OF TAKE TO THE SKIES AND A FLASH FLOOD OF COLOUR?
"I know A Flash Flood… reached Number Four, but I can't remember how Take To The Skies did. Chart positions aren't anything we aspire to, but it's good to know that an independent group can do that. It's something that everyone can understand. I can say to my nan, 'Look, nan, we're Number Four in the charts.'"
AND YOUR NAN WILL BE PROUD TO HEAR THEY BOTH HIT NUMBER FOUR

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR THIRD EP AND A METAMORPH CALLED MAYA?
"I don't know what that second thing is and I can't remember which was our third EP. It was Anything Can Happen In The Next Half Hour? Nope, I still don't know."
THE TITLE COMES FROM GERRY ANDERSON'S STINGRAY. HE ALSO MADE SPACE: 1999, FEATURING MAYA



HOW MANY AWARDS WERE YOU NOMINATED FOR AT THE 2007 K! AWARDS?
"If I say a number and it turns out we weren't nominated for any, I'm going to look like a bit of a dick. I'll say we weren't nominated for anything."
YOU WERE NOMINATED FOR FOUR REGULAR AWARDS PLUS THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE, YOU NUMPTY

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

DO YOU LET A BANK USE YOUR MUSIC IN AN AD FOR £100,000?
"No. As anyone who knows our lyrics might realise, it would be rather hypocritical."

"I RUGBY-TACKLED ANOTHER BAND ONSTAGE..."

AN ALIEN MOTHERSHIP LANDS – WHAT THREE THINGS DO YOU SHOW THEM TO ILLUSTRATE HUMANITY?
"I'd show them the Large Hadron Collider and a nuclear bomb, to show the positive and negative aspects of our scientific achievements. The third should be something cultural. Music's been prevalent throughout history, so I guess some kind of flute made out of bone."

WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR?
"All our music we're working on getting wiped. That would be pretty catastrophic. I dropped my laptop during the Common Dreads sessions and the hard drive smashed, basically. We lost loads of demos, so I know how that feels."
BUTTERFINGERS! DON'T TAKE UP CRICKET, WHATEVER YOU DO

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?
"I hope not. If some sort of life form did visit us, they'd probably work on some sort of level that we wouldn't even know about – in gamma rays or some weird-arse nano-molecule or something. I don't think we're going to come across an alien that's a skinnier, bigger-headed version of us."
WE CAN THINK OF A FEW SKINNY, BIG-HEADED ROCKSTARS WHO DON'T SEEM HUMAN. JUST SAYIN'…

ROU SCORED

70%

We love Rou, we really do, but danger should not equate to wearing flip-flops in any rockstar's world. He's also got a memory like a sieve when it comes to his own music. But we also know he shouts loud and sticks up for what's right. Although we'd love to hear Gandhi Mate, Gandhi on an Andrex ad…

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

Slam Dunk 20 FESTIVAL 14

NORTH LEEDS UNIVERSITY // SATURDAY 24TH MAY

SOUTH THE FORUM, HERTFORDSHIRE* // SUNDAY 25TH MAY

BANK HOLIDAY

MIDLANDS WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC // MONDAY 26TH MAY

KERRANG! MAIN STAGE — Jägermeister

THE ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS

MALLORY KNOX

WE ARE THE IN CROWD

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

WE THE KINGS

THE SKINTS

CANTERBURY

BLITZ KIDS

+ DJ & COMPARE SEAN SMITH

MACBETH FOOTWEAR STAGE

LESS THAN JAKE

THE ATARIS

·I AM THE· AVALANCHE

capdown

GNARWOLVES

zebrahead

DECADE

FANDANGLE

MONSTER ENERGY STAGE

letlive.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

BURY TOMORROW

THE GHOST INSIDE

CROWN THE EMPIRE

CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!

I KILLED THE PROM QUEEN

Cheer Up STAGE

CHIODOS

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

FEED THE RHINO

WARMDUZE

LANDSCAPES

GHOSTTOWN

NATIVES

VERSES

the first

ATTICUS STAGE

KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES

HIT THE LIGHTS

REAL FRIENDS

NECK DEEP

STATECHAMPS

SAVE YOUR BREATH

A LOSS FOR WORDS

MODERN BASEBALL

LIGHT YOU UP

Antique ACOUSTIC STAGE

VINNIE CARUANA

CHAS PALMER-WILLIAMS

YOU, ME AND EVERYONE WE KNOW

ROB LYNCH

THE LION & THE WOLF

UPRAWR DJ STAGE

dj Yoda

TEK-ONE (DJ SET)

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